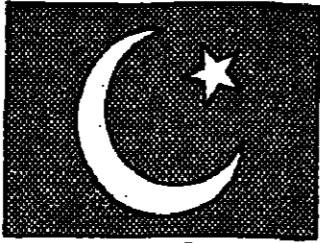


# Zia stirs up Shia and Sunni enmities

**TREVOR FISHLOCK**, Our South Asia Correspondent, discusses Islamic conflicts in Pakistan in the second of two articles on the making of an Islamic state.

## PAKISTAN



### Part 2 Islamic conflicts

Fighting between the Sunni Muslim majority and Shia minority in Karachi recently sent a shiver through the Government of President Zia-ul-Haq. Although the trouble was local and confined, there was concern that it was inescapable by-product of the President's Islamization drive.

Since he came to power more than five years ago, General Zia has come to believe, like Oliver Cromwell, that his autocratic command is part of some divine purpose. His obsession with making Pakistan Islamic, rather than simply Muslim, has grown stronger. Sunnis make up about four fifths of the population, but Shias are an important minority, not least because they are strong in the business community and tend to be better educated.

The President has already had to give in to them on the question of *Zakat*, a 2½ per cent tax he introduced as part of his Islamization programme. The Shias protested furiously that the Koran decrees *Zakat* should be paid voluntarily and not by government order. The President had to back down and the Shias are excused the tax.

The Government's relationship with Shias is complicated by the revolution in predomi-

nantly Shia Iran. The Pakistanis privately suspect that Iranians have been stirring trouble among Pakistani Shias but do not make public accusations because they want to maintain a reasonable relationship with Tehran. Pakistan is naturally concerned about what might happen to its volatile neighbour after Ayatollah Khomeini leaves the scene.

It is not only among Shias that Islamization is regarded with suspicion. Many women, too, believe they stand to lose much by the imposition of rigid Islamic standards. They have demonstrated to challenge both Islamization and martial law. The brutality of the police in breaking up a women's demonstration in Lahore recently aroused the wrath of many men.

Because of the Islamization push, Islamic hardliners feel confident in demanding enactment of laws which discriminate against women. For example, it has been suggested that it would need the evidence of two women to equal the

testimony in court of one man, and that the death penalty should be awarded for the murder of men, but not women.

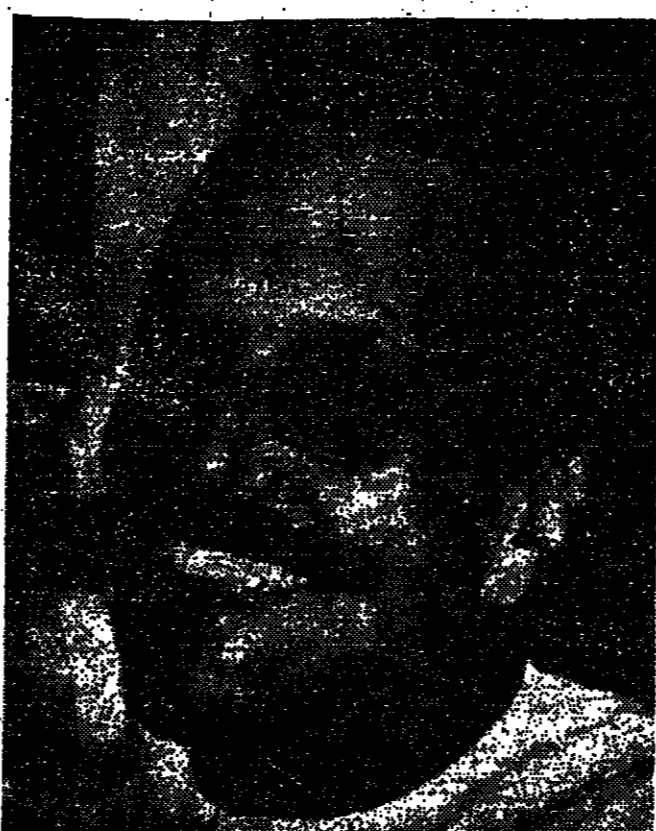
In Pakistan's universities Islamic fundamentalist students, strongly opposed to the emancipation of women, have done badly in elections. Nevertheless, conflict between hardliners and moderate and left-wing student groups continues to be a source of trouble.

Unruliness in colleges is one of the reasons for a damaging decline in the quality of college life and, as letters in the newspapers indicate, concern about education is deep and widespread.

Education in Pakistan is in a chronic position, and teaching everywhere is inadequate. The country spends less than 2 per cent of its budget on education, compared with nearly half on its military outlay. Literacy is only 24 per cent and in some parts of the country the literacy rate is falling. "Our tomorrow is being lost" is the refrain of complaints about education.

President Zia's critics complain that he emphasizes the penal aspects of Islam rather than its practical and social side and that a noticeable effect of his attempt to harness religion is the spread of hypocrisy. They say Islam is employed cynically to keep the people within a rigid framework.

The President grows more comfortable in the job, more sure of himself. He seems somehow sleeker. "Oh yes, I'm an autocrat", he says, with an affable smile.



Zia grows more comfortable in the job, more sure of himself and somehow sleeker. "Oh yes, I'm an autocrat", he says with an affable smile.

General Zia has given Pakistan nearly six years of order, but it is an agent of disunity rather than the basis of harmony, and it is doubtful that it is strong enough to bind together Pakistan's disparate regions and classes.

## FBI spied on Robeson 30 years

From Christopher Thomas, New York

The Federal Bureau of Investigation maintained a 30-year surveillance of Paul Robeson, the black singer and actor, including tapping his telephone, bugging his house and intercepting mail.

An array of agents and paid informants was enlisted to keep watch on his every movement. It received active assistance from the State Department, the Central Intelligence Agency, and intelligence groups from the US Navy and Army. Robeson's wife, Eslanda, was also kept under close watch.

Details of the surveillance are contained in official papers obtained by a publishing company in New Jersey under the Freedom of Information Act. They show that between 1943 and 1973 Robeson was on the FBI's "custodial detention" list of people to be detained within 24 hours in the event of a national emergency.

In 1950 Robeson was refused a passport because he would not sign a document stating that he was a communist. Eight years later the Supreme Court struck down that requirement and Robeson went to London until 1963. He returned when the FBI conceded that it had no firm evidence he was a Communist Party member. He died in 1976 at the age of 77.

Concluded

## Spanish coup trial Judges assert civil rule over military

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Acts committed by the armed forces will be judged for the first time since the restoration of democracy in Spain by the civilian Supreme Court when the appeal hearing begins here today over the February 23, 1981, coup attempt.

The seven judges of the Supreme Court's Second Chamber will thus assert civilian authority and law over the military. This was made possible by Parliament when in November, 1980, it reformed the code of military justice.

The judges will also be the first civilians pronouncing on the coup plot which led to 350 MPs and the full Cabinet being kept prisoner in Parliament for more than 17 hours by Lieutenant-Colonel Antonio Tejero, while Lieutenant-General Jaime Milans del Bosch had his tanks out in Valencia and proclaimed martial law.

The Supreme Court will not, however, review the facts established by the Supreme Council of Military Justice during a court martial lasting three and a half months last year, but only examine whether the military court of 16 members, including only six trained lawyers, acted within the law.

Headed by Judge Fernando Diaz Palos, the president of the Second Chamber, who was appointed in 1979, the judges will be hearing the appeals based essentially on the former Centre Democratic Government's contention of excessive

leniency towards the plotters and those lodged by the accused men who maintained that they had never taken part in any military uprising.

Senator Luis Barón, the Prosecutor General, appointed by the Socialist Government, will demand higher sentences for all except General Milans and Colonel Tejero who both received the maximum 30-year jail sentence for military rebellion.

Colonel Tejero, who is held in a naval prison in southern Spain, indicated yesterday through his lawyer that he was expecting the Supreme Court to quash his conviction.

Twenty-three of the 31 officers and one civilian who went on trial more than a year ago have filed appeals.

None of the accused will be present during the hearings likely to last about a week. But members of their families are expected to figure prominently among the public.

## Colombian quake relief 'blocked'

Bogotá (AP and AFP) - The Colombian Red Cross emergency relief office has said the organization received none of the medical supplies donated by the United States for earthquake victims.

The agency and a Government Minister both denied the supplies were being sold after Catholic church officials and witnesses said some of the relief supplies left for distribution with the Colombian Army were being sold to the homeless in the stricken city of Popayán.

Señor Bernardo Ramirez, the communications minister, said the information was absolutely false.

The United States Air Force delivered 6,000 tents and 25 tons of medicine and hospital equipment last Friday, 24 hours after the earthquake devastated the southern city of 200,000 residents, killing at least 240 people, injuring 1,200 and leaving up to 50,000 homeless.

The Red Cross has seen none of the medical aid, and the Army has said nothing about delivering it to the Red Cross, a spokesman for Señor Carlos Martínez, director of emergency relief for the agency, said.

He added that the Army had delivered only two dozen of the 6,000 tents to the Red Cross. The spokesman asked not to be identified because he feared retribution by the military authorities.

A spokesman in the office of Colonel José Garzón, director of public relations for the Defence Ministry, said reports that the Army was withholding distribution of relief were lies.

The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Popayán, Mgr. Silverio Buitrago, said on Sunday that tents meant for the earthquake victims were being sold for as much as \$400 (£265). Dozens of refugees said they had been offered the tents for up to \$100.

Official sources said electricity and supplies of drinking water had been restored in 70 per cent of the city, and that mass vaccination programmes had prevented an outbreak of disease.

## Yugoslavia faces drop in tourism

From Dassa Trevizan, Belgrade

The Yugoslav Government is hoping to reap some \$1,100m (£750m) from this year's tourist harvest, despite early signs that interest in Yugoslav summer holidays has dropped, according to first reports, by as much as 20 per cent.

The aim which, even in normal circumstances, would be regarded by Yugoslav tourist experts as extremely optimistic, is clearly not likely to be achieved.

Last year, some 18 million tourists spent their holidays in Yugoslav resorts, including about six million from the West. Nevertheless, the intake from Western tourists was only \$850m instead of the planned \$1,000m.

This year, however, additional problems have cropped up, as Western tourist agencies have been reluctant to enter into arrangements for package deals before securing hard guarantees that the shortages, especially of petrol, which provoked much anger among the visitors, will not be repeated.

Motorists last year had to wait for hours in queues, only to discover that petrol had run out, whereas self-catering tourists trying to buy milk or meat found there was none.

The lesson was learnt, and Yugoslav tourist officials are claiming that the country is now over-coming such problems.

There will be no petrol restriction for foreign tourists provided they buy petrol coupons with hard currency.

In order to induce Western tourists to change their money at the banks, the Yugoslav Government had introduced special cheques which can be used by tourists in shops and restaurants at a 10 per cent discount.

But prices of virtually every industrial product continue to rise, while those of fresh foods sold on the free market are already on a par with, or even higher, than in some Western countries.

## Two left-wing papers face closure in Italy

From John Earle, Rome

The survival of two newspapers and radio stations representing different shades of Italian left-wing opinion - is under threat - the Radical Party's radio network, and the Rome newspapers *Paese Sera* and *il Manifesto*.

The Ministry of Post has ordered the closure in five days of the Radical's radio stations on the ground that they cover most of the national territory. By law, RAI, the state broadcasting corporation, has a national monopoly, and private radio and television stations should only transmit on a local basis. However in practice several large networks owned by private capital operate throughout the country without harassment from the authorities.

"We will not give in to this Fascist operation" commented Signor Marco Pannella, the leader of the Radical Party commented.

*Paese Sera* yesterday appeared under the management of its journalists, in defiance of an order from the owners to close down for good at Easter. The newspaper, which once has morning and evening editions, used to be financed by the Communist Party, but last year it was sold to a company whose

ownership has remained unidentified.

The new owners announced plans to revive the evening edition and to station correspondents abroad, but sales plunged and last week came the abrupt decision to close.

The journalists, intending to continue to publish the paper under their own management, have appealed to the public for backing.

*il Manifesto*, with a circulation of about 25,000, represents views to the left of the Communist Party. The editor was due to draw a cheque last week for 600m lire (£285,000) as a newspaper subsidy, allocated by the state to all newspapers according to their circulation. But on Good Friday payment of the cheque was stopped on technical grounds by the state attorney's office.

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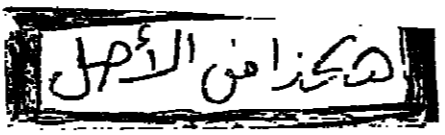
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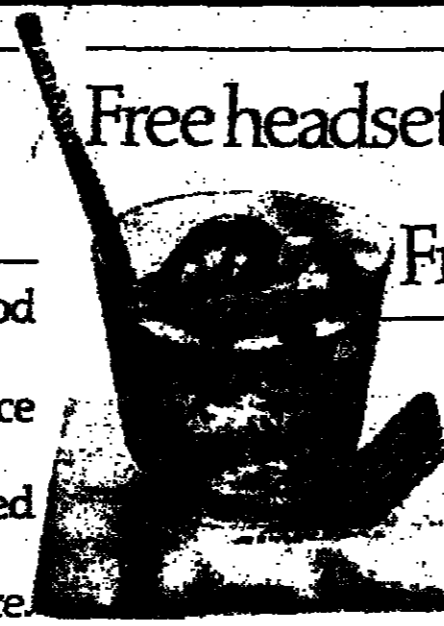
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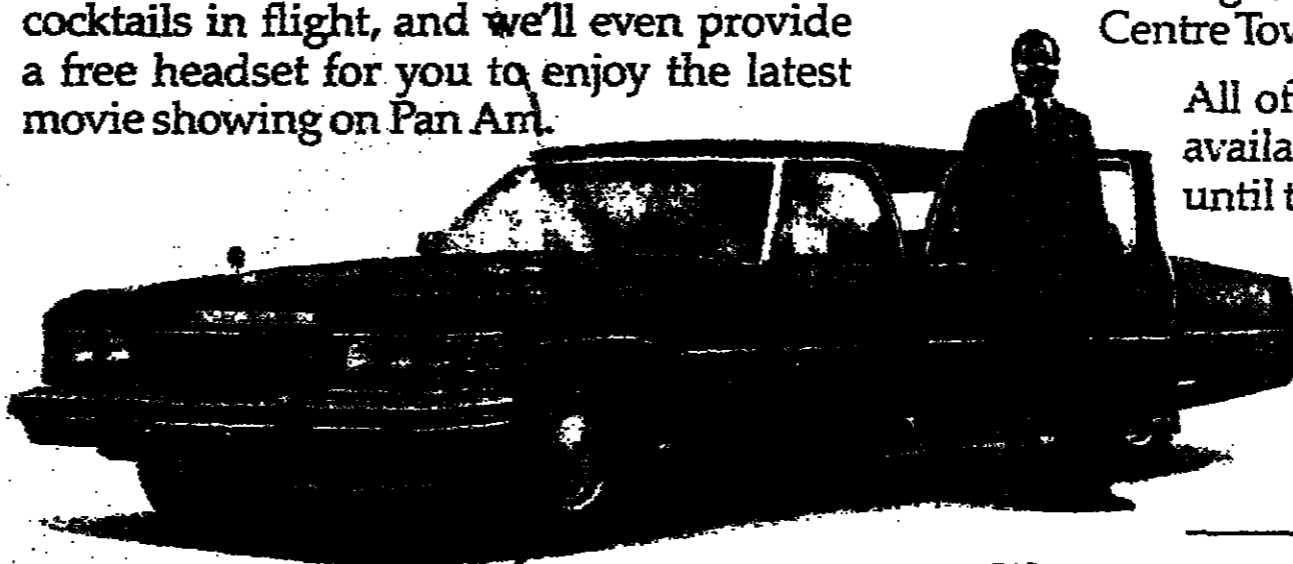
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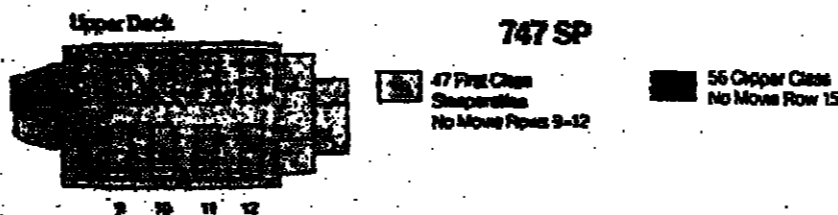
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THE ARTS

Paul Griffiths reflects on the musical machinations of time Growing the whiskers of increasing refinement

Just suppose for a moment that we were living a century ago. Wagner is recently dead; we could have seen his Parsifal performed for the first time at Bayreuth last year. Liszt and Hugo Wolf meet this month to discuss the future of music. Liszt advises the young man to try his hand at a symphonic poem, while he himself works at the weird keyboard meditations of his last years. Brahms will write his Third Symphony this summer. Elsewhere music burgeons in the minds of Tchaikovsky and Franck, Dvorak and Debussy, Borodin and Mahler. They were giants in these days. Certainly the most devoted admirer of contemporary music - and I count myself to be pretty devoted - would find it hard to compile a similar list of 10 composers alive in this year of 1983 and creating at the same level. Of course there are a great many arguments to account for the

discrepancy. They range from the severely practical to the metaphysical, from the general damaging of western brains from lead pollution to the impossibility of making songs after Auschwitz and Hiroshima. They include also the lack nowadays of a generally accepted musical language, the commercial interest vested in the "classics" and the seeming indifference of most people to new music outside the general sphere of rock and jazz. As someone once said to me, why should anybody bother with contemporary music when there is so much Haydn?

But I wonder if all these arguments are not addressing a false comparison and a false problem. To labour composers now for not being Wagner, Brahms, Tchaikovsky and the rest is to suppose that the Wagner et al. of 1883 were the same as the Wagner et al. of today. Of course they were not. A century has passed, and with it their music has changed, even if the notes have stayed the same. In the first place, it has grown old. Music never really becomes old, because it is re-created at every performance, but at the same time

music always carries within it traces of its time - like any product of the human mind. It may be, therefore, that we need to project ourselves backwards if we are to appreciate say, the operas of Massenet. It may be, too, that we miss much that had only passing relevance, that we misconstrue things that would have been abundantly plain to an audience of the time. On the other hand, because music is the most abstract of the arts it is also the most dependent on its own traditions, which means that music of the past has gained an immense

load of meaning that was not available to its first listeners. And that meaning has been added by an array of composers, performers and critics. No spectator at Parsifal in 1882 could have seen it as a gateway to so much in composers as diverse as Mahler and Bartok, Debussy and Richard Strauss. No one nowadays could fail to be aware at some level of the opera as a herald of things to come as well as a consummation of Wagner's own achievement. The repetitions of countless performances, stored up in a body of tradition supporting any major work,

have also contributed a cloud of nuances, thin at the start but now dense and still growing. Meanwhile critics and musicologists have similarly altered perceptions. It is entirely possible, for instance, that Wagner and Brahms would simply not understand much that is now being written about them in terms of psychological motivation and musical analysis. That does not render modern studies invalid. It just confirms that the Parsifal and the F major Symphony of 1883 are not what they were a century ago, and are becoming ever less such.

If one wants proof of that, one only has to look at the original reviews, whose judgments and assumptions so often seem alien to the point of incomprehensibility. It is not that critics then were deaf or stupid, merely that they were remarking on experiences quite other from our own. Perhaps, therefore, the lesson to be learnt from comparison with the past is not that the standards of composition have declined lamentably but that the complexity of musical appreciation has increased vastly (the audience is also very much bigger, but that is another matter). If that is the case, then it could be that we can only really be satisfied with music that has grown whiskers of increasing refinement. Beethoven and Stockhausen may be tolerable by the 20th century, but by then what will Brahms and Wagner sound like?

Theatre in the United States II: Irving Wardle at Louisville A celebration of writers' lib

Jet-lag is nothing compared with the shock of moving from the Broadway theatre to the Actors Theatre of Louisville, Kentucky. New York theatre is a sumptuously upholstered WASP haven from the teeming, uncensored life on the streets. Downtown Louisville, despite all efforts to reclaim it, remains an urban desert where lone figures wander among the fortress-like buildings as might survivors of a neutron bomb. Set foot inside ATL, though, and all America is there from the beaches of Southern California to the snows of Minnesota, and local spectators find themselves rubbing shoulders with visitors from Haiti, Zimbabwe, Egypt and China. This is my fourth experience of Louisville's annual Humana Festival of New American Plays, but the operation still takes my breath away, and I doubt whether any place on earth does as much to promote the work of living playwrights. ATL sifts some 4,000 scripts a year, administers commissions and awards, mobilizes subscription audiences and corporate funding, supports excellent casts with a state-of-the-art design team, and then throws a three-day party showing off the results to the world. Usually there are nine productions. This year there were 10, and, as one of them was too big for either the studio or the main house, the public were taken off by bus to see it in a cartage warehouse 12 miles out of town. On the door you were given a crumpled programme for Gary Leon Hill's Food from Trash, and then you took one of the benches surrounding a duplex apartment, an office and other simultaneous locations, all situated on an earth floor in the midst of a giant garbage dump. Periodically a white Lincoln glided through the debris, not to mention the garbage truck itself - which had been built by Paul Owen's

design unit, as the actual vehicle was too high for the warehouse doors. Environmental theatre may likewise be due for the garbage tip, but you can only salute a company that goes to such lengths to give a playwright what he wants. There remains the question of the play itself. Food from Trash is the latest American rewrite of An Enemy of the People, simultaneously examining the commercial abuses of toxic waste and disposal and its moral effect on those who do the job. Just as Phil's "Industrial Refugee" company is poisoning the area, so his workers have come to look on themselves as garbage; and the play is as much a plea for releasing their suppressed potentialities as for transforming excrement into methane. That is a neat idea, but Mr Hill swamps it up to its neck in the steamy excesses of Southern Gothic. There is teenage nymphomania, trigger-happy law-enforcement and incessant verbal and physical violence. And, as its agent of change, the play introduces an Indian outcast called Running Joke, who unaccountably has the scientific know-how to steal the boss's limousine and convert it to methane power before having his chest blown out by the rednecks. As a dying aria, however, he gets the chance to harangue the guilty parties with an interminable catalogue of pollutants, thus bludgeoning home the message which the play has failed to enact. This production highlights the strengths and weaknesses of the Louisville operation. Its care with actors, design and stage-management are not matched by its care with texts which often suffer from long-windedness, action-stopping memory speeches and other correctable faults that nobody has bothered to correct. As a result, it succeeds more often with short plays than with those of full length, and the productions most worth dwelling on come from writers who already know their business. Most conspicuous among them is Adele Edling Shank (whose Sunset/Sunrise was the festival's 1979 star attraction), who has developed her own brand of Californian "hyperrealism" and who works in partnership with her husband, Theodore Shank, who had directed Sand Castles in San Francisco before presenting it to Louisville. The handiest analogy for a Shank play is a Hockney painting: a cold, beautifully detailed surface, addressed to the emotionally detached observer. If she is telling a story, it is one that began long before the first scene, which you overhear and try to piece together like a conversation from an adjoining table. Such, too, is the relationship between the holiday groups in Sand Castles, stretched out on the beach and making fleeting contact with the natives against the surge of the Pacific breakers. A middle-aged husband strikes up acquaintance with a solitary blade-faced beauty, and then shuffles off back to the wife he is about to divorce. A girl picks up a monosyllabic boy from the ocean and arranges to smuggle him into her hotel



The cold, detailed surface of Sand Castles (left), with Carol Shoup-Sanders and John Vennema; and Bill Smitrovich and Kent Broadhurst (as Running Joke) in the steamy excess of Food from Trash



room. And, while these fragmentary stories are taking shape, we observe the regular traffic of the beach: an elegant prostitute on the promenade above who keeps in touch with her tough, protective daughter by walkie-talkie; and a deranged Ancient Mariner figure who haunts the area, erupting into spasmodic violence and attempts to make it back to his native Australia by surfboard. Mrs Shank can tell stories and spring powerful surprises, as where the haughty beauty summons a leather-clad hero and places her in a wheel-chair. But this writer's real achievement is to make the ordinary extraordinary, by building highly dramatic patterns without invading the characters' privacy, and revealing how much you can learn about the passing crowd if you keep your eyes open. Two other accomplished writers - William Mastrosimone (whose Off-Broadway hit, Extremities, appeared at Louisville two years ago) and Jeffrey Sweet - come together in a fine double bill on the theme of fathers and daughters. In Mastrosimone's A Fantazising, a professionally independent young woman invites a deranged tramp home for a meal and endures a barrage of male chauvinist insults and complaints about her cuisine, before she dresses him - a fantasy executive - in her dead father's suit and sends him on his way. What begins as an act of charity ends as a psychological exorcism. Mr Sweet's The Value of Names concerns the reunion of a Jewish comedian and the director who shopped him to the House Committee on Un-American Activities 30 years before. Their meeting comes in his defeated attempts to sell out and take a humdrum office job. Thanksgiving by James McClure (author of Lone Star) brings a collection of erstwhile friends together to show off

their wounds, and their glittering successes and their retreats down the corporate burrow. In Jon Jory's production, this got going with a great bang, and then ran out of steam as the drunken thanksgivers aimlessly congregated around an oriental bridge to play party games and relate their sense of loss to the state of Western civilization. Susan Kingsley, as a brusque career girl informing the Deity that the Bible could do with some sensible editing, redeems even the second act. The most interesting of this group was Kathleen Tolan's A Weekend Near Madison, another reunion play in which a feminist folk-singer breaks her tour for a few days with some old friends in the wilds of Wisconsin. They are all "alternative" people, now at the midnight of youth and feeling a cold wind blowing. The atmosphere of Emily Mann's production is filled with panic and unacted desires. The Wisconsin wife (a non-writing writer) longs to get back to the filth and junk-

food of New York. Since a professionally expedient abortion she cannot face her husband, Vanessa, the singer, spends the weekend trying herself to invite one of the men to give her a child. These are gentle, pacific people, and the play takes its force from the eruption of violent impulses in characters whose first imperative is to be kind to one another: most memorably in Mary McDonnell's Vanessa, perpetually masked behind her radiant smile and encouraging exclamations of "wow", "great" and "incredible". The same spirit, alas, also infects the writer, who winds up the play first with a round of "goodnights" then a round of "goodnights", finally leaving one character alone to switch off the lights in slow motion and fade out in the set of snubbing a biscuit. Louisville is the American playwright's Mecca, but it could do with a hefty consignment of blue pencils.

Actors Unlimited aims principally to use Asian actors, and, with one exception, does so successfully they show here. Only the Hedda (Jenny Segrove) and the Judge Brack, here reborn as Commissioner through the gentility poisonous person of Donald Gee, are European. Tesman, Hedda's husband, becomes Farooq Usman, still young as she is herself, a prepubescent college boy with too many aunts; and in Raad Rawi's faultless performance a comic but very credible figure, sufficiently lost-looking always to secure the female support he cannot do without.

Mr Lagoya obviously engaged immediately the respect and affection of both orchestra and audience, who demanded and received a short solo encore. He earned it by playing which made one realize just how seldom, among many so-called virtuoso performances of this work, an artist is able effortlessly to recreate that synthesis of the classical and the popular in form and sentiment of which Rodrigo himself speaks. The steady, urbane restraint of his opening was set against a passagework of exquisite, fluttering delicacy; and the intensity of expression, even in the accompanying chords to the outlandish eloquent solo in the Adagio, soon dissolved into improvisatory passages of remarkable fluidity, only to be refocused in finely wrought miniatures of counterpoint.

In the Ravel, Spain was intuitively and elusively present: the violins, sleek and undulating, lightly brushed the Prelude and Malagena into being and the finest frissons of woodwind and string evoked a shimmering haze of Habanera suspended in Mr Dutoit's fine balance of tempo and pulse. The Clarinet swooped into its good-natured and unashamed part: Andalusian folk tunes with splendid élan, yet always taunted and invigorated by a telling refinement of detail. The vibrancy of this performance was testimony to an orchestra playing on tiptop form, further demonstrated in the sharp, individual and corporate responses in the concluding Bolero and in a Carmen suite nicely poised between pit and bandstand.

Stephen Pettitt

Advertisement for 'A MAP OF THE WORLD' at the Lyttelton Theatre. It features a list of plays and authors, including 'Crackles with wit, passion and inventiveness' and 'STANDBY from 10am on day - any unsold seats £4.50'. It also mentions 'NATIONAL THEATRE' and 'Credit Cards: 01 928 5933'.

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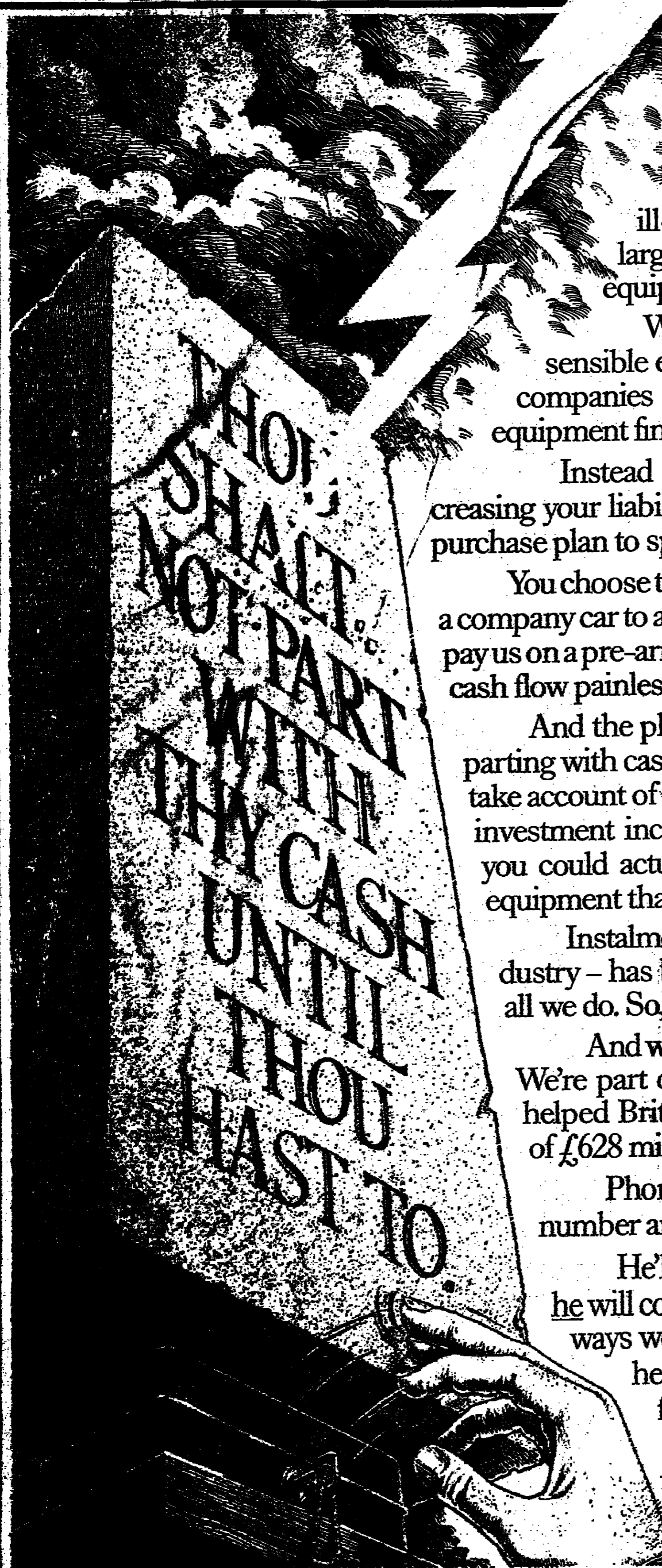
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On Yorkshire's famous moorland, Anne Haigh (left) is a member of a band of amateur archaeologists

whose findings may rewrite the history of Europe's Bronze Age

# Stones that speak on Ilkley Moor

By Stan Abbott



Bill Gregory draws up a grid of an uncovered cairn. "People haven't been prepared to slog it out in the snowstorms to find the evidence."

For eight years Anne Haigh has meticulously scoured the 150,000 wild, wet, windy acres that are Ilkley Moor in search of the curious cup-and-ring marked stones that litter this peat and heather wasteland in West Yorkshire.

Her efforts - and those of her fellow members of the Ilkley Archaeological Group, who have invested an estimated 25,000 man-hours in their fieldwork - and twice as long again cataloguing the results - seem almost insignificant in comparison with the three and a half thousand years the mysterious stones have guarded their secrets. Yet suddenly, in the space of a few weeks, the dream of every amateur archaeologist has come true for the Ilkley group as their work has suddenly acquired a significance that could ultimately require the rewriting of the prehistory not just of Britain, but of the whole of Europe.

The recent frenzy began when the group managed to persuade some of Europe's leading authorities on prehistoric rock art to visit the moor - visits that opened the door to sort of backing required to mount a full-scale exploratory excavation. That dig, carried out in the winter's most atrocious weather and against a deadline imposed by the start of the grouse breeding season, will, it is hoped, yield the dating evidence to back up the group's contention: that the cup-and-ring stones, cairnfields, enclosures and

evidence of hut circles on the moor belong not to the Iron Age (about 600BC) as originally thought but to a much earlier Bronze Age.

Soil samples now with Leeds University Plant Sciences Department may provide evidence from pollen and carbon-14 dating that the settlement originated in about 1800-1400BC. While both settlement evidence and cup-and-ring stones are found in highland Britain from Dartmoor to the Shetlands, nowhere else is the evidence linking the two so strong as at Ilkley.

"If we are right, this really advances the knowledge of Bronze Age mixed-economy highland landscapes and it does so in an area that has been previously written off by British archaeology," Bill Godfrey declares.

While Mrs Haigh, aged 69, the widow of a medical missionary, has painstakingly recorded the details of 260 cup-and-ring stones, more than half of them previously unknown, Mr Godfrey, a 49-year-old charge nurse, has been the group's "cairnfield man".

The contention is that while the highlands may have developed more slowly than areas like the Thames Valley and the Downs, they nevertheless enjoyed their own Bronze Age, which may well have endured in pockets until the arrival of the Romans, sharing cultural links with Scandinavia and those on the north of the island.

"If you look at the average textbook distribution map of prehistoric Britain you find the highland areas are rather sparse," Godfrey says. "We believe this skew in the distribution maps is largely due to the fact that people haven't been prepared to slog it out in the snowstorms to find the evidence. It's been more fruitful for all these lovely professors in London and Oxford to 'do' the rolling downs."

The Ilkley group's work had its beginning in adult education classes in 1975 and over the next few years the members set about training themselves in the skills of archaeology, such as fieldwork and surveying.

"At the end of the first four or five years' work, in about 1980," Godfrey continued, "we were aware that we needed to test our ideas further. Over the last two to two and a half years we had been pushing to get some exploratory excavation work under way."

By the start of this year, that had led to West Yorkshire County Council agreeing in principle to release two staff from its archaeological unit for a short time and to the landowner, Major John Ingham, allowing the chosen site, a cairn selected because of its previously undisturbed appearance, to be excavated.

But it took visits from such distinguished prehistorians as Dr Andrew Fleming of Sheffield University, Peter Fowler, secretary of the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments and President of the Council of British Archaeology, and Professor Emmanuel Anati of the University of Lecca in southern Italy to spur the council's decision to allow work to start.

Bill Godfrey admits that persuading Professor Anati, among the world's leading authorities on prehistoric art, was the result of rather a cheeky approach to him during a conference on British prehistoric rock carving at Glasgow University last month.

On the Monday following the conference Professor Anati was due to fly home via London, but the group managed to persuade him it was worth his while breaking his journey at Ilkley. They duly rebooked his flight via Leeds/Bradford airport, whose approach path passes over Ilkley Moor, to allow a four-hour visit to the site.

"Professor Anati wasn't quite sure at first why we had dragged him all the way across the moorland," Godfrey relates, "but he became more and more excited at what he saw."

Most significant was the striking similarity between the cup-and-ring marked stones found in Lombardy and Scandinavia and those on Ilkley Moor, chiefly the elaborately carved Swastika

Stone, on which the rings round the cup form a swastika shape - virtually identical with the carvings Professor Anati had dated at around 700-1000BC.

The precise raison d'être of the cup-and-ring stones remains, to say the least, a matter for speculation: no fewer than 123 different theories have been officially advanced, covering just about everything from sacrificial altars to star charts to maps of the alder bush scrubland thought to have covered Ilkley Moor at the time.

A generally accepted theory is that Ilkley Moor in those days was - by contrast with the cautionary words in the popular Yorkshire anthem - a place where one could safely venture "bah r'at" (without a hat), being some 4-5 degrees F warmer, and this has inevitably given rise to speculation as to what might have sustained the upland settlements.

"This would have made summer-time habitation of the moor very much more pleasant - quite nice, in fact," Godfrey suggests. "We believe that what we see on the moor is a mixture of summer pastoral settlement plus some kind of socio-religious/funerary use of the area."

Hopes that the excavation might provide immediate strong indicators, proved ill-founded and it will be some

weeks before soil analyses are complete. In any event, the development of the highland settlements chiefly found also in Dartmoor, the Peak District, North York moors, Northumberland, Galloway, along the Great Glen, Orkney, Shetland, south west Ireland and Brittany, seems to have taken a substantially different course from those in the lowlands.

"The inter-relationship between them is something we just don't know the answer to yet," Godfrey says. But the arrival of "quite large quantities" of worked flint in the highland areas where the stones does not occur naturally point to a fairly active trade - possibly involving hides and pelts - which evidence suggests was also carried out over long distances, where valuable items like Whitley jet and Scandinavian amber were involved.

Bill Godfrey believes the Ilkley Moor findings also serve as a valuable lesson for groups of enthusiastic amateurs up and down the country: "A lot of people wander around the countryside making their observations, doing a little bit here and there. They never get their information together and never consider it should be published. We started out not really knowing where we were going. It's only through persevering and researching that we have come to realise that the professionals aren't as far away from us as we thought they were."

It is easy to sneer at romantic fiction. Its image is both saccharine and cynical, the heroine disappearing into the reddening sunset wrapped in a very carefully designed cloak of glamour. But a 49-year-old Yorkshirewoman, Barbara Taylor Bradford, has quietly raised it to a very commercial art.

Not only has her first novel, *A Woman of Substance*, sold more than seven million copies since it was published in 1979, but her three English-language publishers are so confident of her success that they have agreed to pay her more than \$8m for her next three novels, among the highest advances ever paid to a novelist. In the past year she has become one of the three highest-earning novelists in the world.

The first of the new trio novels, *Voice of the Heart*, has just been published in Britain and America. To capitalise on their £1m investment, Mrs Bradford's English publishers, Granada, have taken the rare step of mounting a television advertising campaign to support the book.

In addition to the £1.5m she has already earned from her first book, Mrs Bradford's American agent, Morton Janklow, who also represents Judith Krantz and Shirley Conran, expects to deliver her royalty cheques amounting to £1m a year for the next five years. Barbara Taylor Bradford, who was born plain Barbara Taylor in Leeds, has become a bigger name in fiction than Cartland or Le Carre, Puzo or even James Clavell.

"I didn't ever think about being successful," she says. "I just knew that it was what I wanted to do. I don't really think about the large royalty cheques coming in every six months or so. I've always had quite a good standard of living and it hasn't made all that much difference."

A smallish blonde woman, given to discreet jewelry and plain silk blouses, she con-

tinues: "I bought some English antiques and paid too much for them because I bought them in New York, but the rest is simply invested carefully. I already had two fur coats, and I didn't want any more. How many fur coats can you wear at one time?"

The only child of an engineer and a determined mother, she married the American film producer Bob Bradford in 1963 and moved with him to New York. She has only returned to



Emotions, says the novelist, speak louder than biology

England since to see her parents, who lived in Yorkshire until their deaths two years ago. Although her first novel was the story of a Yorkshire girl who struggled to become a successful businesswoman and succeeded, she denies it is autobiographical. "I don't think I'm writing about myself particularly. I am just trying to tell a story."

She mentions that her mother's last words to her were: "I don't want you worrying about

me - you must finish *Voice of the Heart*." She finished it, she says, to keep grief at bay.

"When I was a child my mother encouraged me to read. I didn't have many friends, so I used to read. I'd read almost all of Dickens by the time I was 12. I didn't understand it, but I read it."

In fact she sold her first story when she was 12. "A magazine sent me a cheque for 10 shillings and sixpence and I knew I didn't want to do anything else." She ignored her parent's advice to go to Leeds University, and joined the *Yorkshire Evening Post* as a typist. At 16 she was a trainee reporter, and at 18 in charge of the women's page.

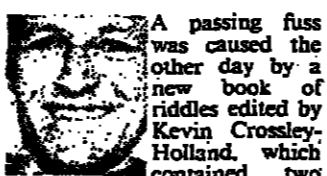
Within two years she was in London, first as fashion editor of the magazine *Woman's Own*, and then as a reporter on the *London Evening News*. After her marriage she continued to work as a journalist, specializing in design - "but all the time I was thinking about novels and writing bits of them. I must have done at least three." Finally in 1976, at the age of 43, she started work on *A Woman of Substance* and she has never looked back. Even *The New York Times* called it "extraordinary and absorbing".

It is already being made into a television series by the same American company that persuaded the late Ingrid Bergman to portray Mrs Goida Meir - "they have a good record of doing things tastefully, and I had turned down all sorts of other approaches to do it." Negotiations are already under way to make another series of the new novel.

"The reason I am successful, I think," she says, "is that I write about emotion and feelings, which people are fascinated by. I don't write about sex very much. I'm not interested in biological details. Everyone knows what you do in bed."

Geoffrey Wansell

## Without the boundaries of good taste



MOREOVER... Miles Kington

A passing fuss was caused the other day by a new book of riddles edited by Kevin Crossley-Holland, which contained two jokes about Lord Mountbatten in the worst possible taste. Whenever I hear that something is in the worst possible taste, I immediately suspect that I am missing something funny, so I took steps to find out what the offending riddles were: imagine my chagrin when I found out that they were both quite familiar to me, having been told to me by my children over a year ago.

The only funny thing, in fact, was the sight of grown-ups working themselves into a lather of indignation over the juvenile sense of humour. Children love black humour - in my schooldays it was the newly imported sick jokes from America that were all the rage - and it is only when they mature that they become toffee-nosed and obsessed with good taste. In other words when they start denying the way people really think and talk.

Good taste breaks out all over the place. It broke out in Kilburn not so long ago when the council tried to outlaw the telling of Irish jokes, and were greeted by a storm of merriment from all right-minded Irishmen. I learnt all my best Irish jokes from a book published in Dublin, though of course they weren't jokes against Irishmen - they were jokes against the people of Kerry, who perform the same fictitious function there as Tasmanians do in Australia or Belgians in France.

And it broke out again last week when Tony Banks of the GLC tried to insist that the London Marathon could only take place if 20 or so disabled competitors were allowed to

wheelchair themselves in the race itself. Quizzical Chris Brasher quite rightly pointed out that a running race is a running race, and that the last thing runners want is to find themselves falling over wheelchairs, though in the prevailing spirit of good taste, he had to put very tactfully the notion that people in wheelchairs, however worthy, were not runners in the true sense.

Now, it is one of the axioms of humour that the best jokes about minorities usually come from the minorities themselves. The funniest Catholic jokes I know were told me by Catholics. I remember with great pleasure George Shearing, the blind pianist, telling Roy Plomley on Desert Island Discs of his stint in an all-blind orchestra and of the night, just before curtain up, when one of the saxophonists yelled: "Stop! I've lost my glass eye!" If you've never seen 15 blind musicians on their hands and knees looking for a glass eye, said Shearing wryly, you haven't seen anything.

Another wonderful blind pianist, Eddie Thompson, once told me that one of the saddest moments of his life came when he achieved a great ambition, and got to drive a dodgem car at a funfair. No sooner had he started than the proprietor turned him off with the words: "I'm not having a blind man on my dodgemes; you might bump into somebody."

But the best of all blind jokes came from Stevie Wonder, the blind and black American singer/composer, who was once asked (or asked a million times, knowing interviewers) if blindness had hampered his career a great deal.

"Well, it might have been worse," said Wonder. "I could be black."

But when I heard of Tony Banks's good taste, I couldn't help thinking of Douglas Bader on the *Agincourt* Parkinson Show. It was a fairly mundane show, as I remember, but the light came into Bader's eyes when they started on sport for disabled people.

"You haven't seen sport at its most furious till you've seen wheelchair basketball," he said. "It's probably the most exciting game in the world. And the dirtiest. Their wheelchairs are pitted with dents and marks where they've run into each

other at full speed in an attempt to commit mayhem. I saw a game in Canada recently which I still remember with awe because both sides had taken against the referee, whom they considered to be far below standard."

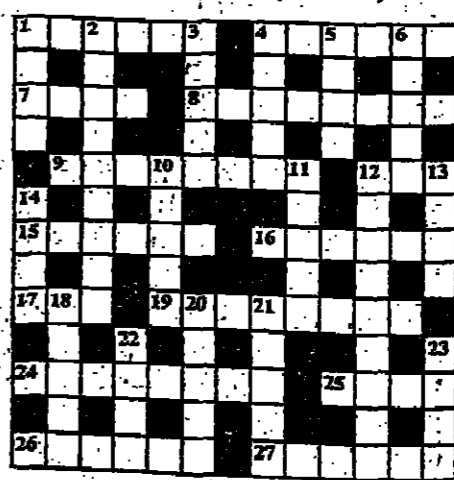
"And what happened?" said Parkinson.

"They ran him over," said Bader promptly. I wish Bader were still around to comment on Tony Banks. He would, I feel, probably support Mr Banks's insistence on having wheelchair athletes in the main marathon itself, on the grounds that a wheelchair athlete may not actually be able to win the race, but he could do an awful lot of damage.

And I wish I could hear Mr Banks's reply.

### CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 32)

- ACROSS  
1 Flowing back (6)  
2 Bluff (6)  
3 Type (4)  
4 Quorum (8)  
5 Bedlam (8)  
6 Bedlam dwellers (3)  
7 Sheds skin (6)  
8 Unkempt (8)  
9 Seed (3)  
10 News gatherer (8)  
11 Nightclub act (3,5)  
12 Choice (4)  
13 Withdraw (5)  
14 Disgraced (6)  
DOWN  
1 Other (4)  
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3 Zest (5)  
4 Solicits (5)  
5 Ear part (4)  
6 Greek letter (5)  
7 Walker (5)  
8 Anaesthetic (5)  
9 Attraction (9)  
10 Periods (4)  
11 Invitation request  
12 (1,1,1,1)  
13 Avoid (5)  
14 Bumped computer (5)



- SOLUTION TO No 31  
ACROSS: 1 Askew 2 Biff 3 Adapt 4 Ice pack 11 Telegrams 13 Soud 15 Adulthood 18 Inman 19 Tricycle 22 Checkup 23 Along 24 Brea 25 Comet  
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WEDNESDAY PAGE

COMMENT

The pain in your pocket



Nine out of 10 employees face a drop in income when they are sick under the Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) scheme, which starts today.

The new scheme, which replaces national insurance sickness benefit for the first eight weeks of illness, has been delayed for a year because of opposition from employers who will not be able to claim back their total SSP payments by deducting the amount from their national insurance contributions.

Opponents of the scheme argue that people need more money when they are off sick to pay for the extra fuel bills incurred when they are at home, for higher prescription charges, and, in cases of serious illness, the cost of travelling to hospital and caring for children.

The scheme will cover virtually all workers, whose earnings before becoming sick will determine which of the three flat rates of SSP their employers will be obliged to pay.

Present sickness benefit rates are £25 a week for a single person, £40.45 for a married couple, and 30p for each child.

There are new rules on appeals. An employer can refuse to pay SSP to people excluded under the scheme, those who were not off work long enough, those who notified the illness late, or if the employer has good reason to believe that the illness is not genuine.

Regulations to the scheme make clear that the employers, liability to pay SSP cannot be avoided by sacking the employee solely or mainly for that purpose.

Pat Healy Social Services Correspondent



Lady Olga Maitland with Women for Defence helpers and (right) Joan Ruddock of CND

The Bomb: a woman's place is on both sides

Lady Olga Maitland, founder of Women for Defence, thinks that the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament "has hijacked the word peace into an appendage".

prospective Tory candidate. Private Eye's labelling of her as "the fragrant hackette" is misleading in its suggestion of feminine frailty.

invitation to a public debate was that he thought CND has a closed mind. He might also have been aware that Joan Ruddock had already seen off one of his defence spokesmen, Winston Churchill, as well as Major General Christopher Popham, when she encountered them at the normally conservative Birmingham University debating society.

She emerged as if from a beauty salon

The sleekly elegant "frontliners" of Women for Defence have spoken of producing literature simple enough for a child to understand.

to CND. To save some of these minutes, we met in the refreshment room of Reading station, discussing peace and defence while all around us teacups chinked and commuters talked of shopping and the cold weather.

A peaceful pause among the teacups

She thought that being a woman had been particularly helpful in getting her elected as CND chairman. On the other hand, she recognized the dangers of exploitation.

Penny Perick

JOANNA LUMLEY'S DIARY

Win, lose - or simply present the prizes

"Oh, by the way", said my sister, scarcely concealing a yawn, "this arrived today", and she let an envelope flutter from her fingers.

What is it that makes her win and not others? Not me, for example? The first time she won was when we bought raffle tickets in the church hall, and she got a terrifically large box of chocolates.

Now I am in the twilight zone where I frequently hand over prizes or massive sums of money to happy contestants. I usually wear a hat and a wide smile, and of course I am thrilled to be even a small part of the winning streak.

I think the best thing about reading in bed at night is that you are quite possibly the only person in the world reading those exact words at that precise moment.

On the evening of Good Friday, we watched the Bond film on television. I was on screen for almost 90 seconds altogether. It was the second film part I had played... but oh! in those days they made Motion Pictures. We, the Bond Girls, lived for two months in Mürren, in a huge gaunt hotel near the Riger.

There are so many really excellent things to make with shyllo pastry that I shall fill some of this week's space with chatter. Except to say that no fancy skills are needed to turn a packet of phyllo into dozens, nay hundreds of delicious, unusual, original creations of your own.

setting, moving the trays to the lowest position in the oven instead of lowering the heat.

THE TIMES COOK

Lamb and aubergine puffs Makes about 15 340 g (12 oz) aubergine Salt 6 tablespoons vegetable oil 225 g (8 oz) finely chopped onion 1 clove garlic, finely chopped 225 g (8 oz) raw or cooked lamb 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon Freshly ground black pepper 85 g (3 oz) butter, melted 8 sheets phyllo pastry

setting, moving the trays to the lowest position in the oven instead of lowering the heat.

Bacon and mushrooms puffs Makes about 15 1 tablespoon vegetable oil 110 g (4 oz) bacon, lean and fat, diced 225 g (8 oz) open mushrooms 225 g (8 oz) cooked potato

requires to be done, then use the mixture to fill the pastry and bake as directed in the previous recipe.

Curried vegetable puffs Makes about 15 4 tablespoons vegetable oil 170 g (6 oz) onion, finely chopped 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped 1 tablespoon ground coriander 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger 1/2 teaspoon ground chilli 340 g (12 oz) cooked potato, diced 4 spring onions, finely chopped 4 tablespoons chopped parsley or coriander leaf Salt 85 g (3 oz) butter, melted 8 sheets phyllo pastry

Heat the oil and fry the onion until tender. Stir in the garlic and spices and stir fry for a moment or two more before adding the potato. Fry and stir the mixture for a little longer then remove it from the heat and stir in the spring onion and parsley. Season it to taste with salt. Fill the pastry and bake as directed in the first recipe.

Spiced lamb twists Makes about 10 225 g (8 oz) cooked lamb 55 g (2 oz) fresh breadcrumbs 2 tablespoons chopped spring onions 2 tablespoons chopped parsley

1 tablespoon curry paste 1 egg Salt 10 sheets phyllo pastry 55 g (2 oz) butter melted

Mince, process, or finely chop the lamb and mix it with the breadcrumbs, spring onions, parsley, curry paste, egg and salt. The mixture may be rough or smooth according to taste.

Lay a sheet of phyllo pastry on a board and paint it with melted butter. Place a narrow strip of filling along one long edge, leaving a 2.5cm (1 inch) gap at either end. Roll up the pastry loosely round the filling then coil the filled cylinder of dough into a circle. Brush with butter and lay it on a greased baking tray. Make the remaining coils in the same way.

Baklava Makes about 20 pieces 450 g (1 lb) blanched almonds 85 g (3 oz) caster sugar 1 orange 1 teaspoon ground cloves 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

450 g (1 lb) phyllo pastry 225 g (8 oz) butter, melted 20 cloves For the syrup 450 g (1 lb) granulated sugar 10 cm (4 inches) cinnamon stick 4 cloves

To prepare the filling, chop the almonds very finely and mix them in a bowl with the sugar. Grate the rind of the orange over the bowl, add the spices and toss together until well mixed.

Choose a large, rectangular baking tin, at least 2.5 cm (1 inch) deep, which is roughly the size of the pastry leaves - or trim the pastry to fit an available tin.

To make the syrup, put the sugar in a saucepan with 350 ml (12 fl oz) water and the spices. Stir on a low heat until the sugar has dissolved completely, then boil the syrup for about three minutes. Strain it over the oven, and leave it in the tin until quite cold.

TALKBACK

Allaying fear

From Dr N H Kemp, Scientific Secretary, Cancer Research Campaign, 2 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1

Whist welcoming the general tenor of the article by Liz Hodgkinson entitled "Cancer: tackling fear..." (Wednesday Page, March 16) I feel obliged to take issue with her statement that "even though more than £60m a year is spent on cancer research in Britain alone, we are little nearer to finding either a cause or a cure".

With regard to cancer - and I think that all concerned now realize that we must think of these in the plural - we know that cigarette smoking is responsible for approximately one third of all cancer deaths in this country.

In relation to the treatment of cancer, at present over 60,000 people in this country are cured annually, approximately one third of all those who develop some form of cancer each year.

It is time the shoe trade realized the size (and shape) of the market.

Pat Healy

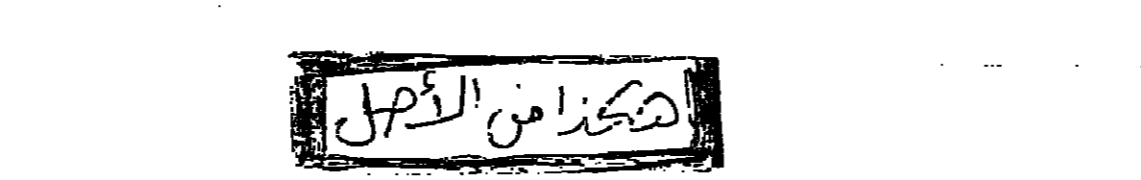
In these instances the prognoses have been revolutionized during the last 20 or so years, to the extent that two thirds of children who develop cancer are now cured. Although the absolute numbers are relatively small, the number of years of life saved is substantial.

Slim choice

From Mrs S. M. Mobery, 19 Woodford Square, London, W14

Lady Ardwick (Talkback, March 11) is right in saying that wearing tight shoes is not women's own choice; but mistaken in stating that width is rarely a problem.

There are a few shops that specialize in wide shoes for pensioners whose feet have spread because of foot ailments; but a drearier selection it would be hard to find, and the sad thing is that these same ailments probably arose from wearing tight shoes because acceptable wide-fitting shoes were not available.



THE TIMES DIARY

New leaf

The first publishing houses to reject the new package of terms for writers drawn up by the Society of Authors and the Writers' Guild are Jonathan Cape and Bodley Head, in both cases there is an element of poachers turning gamekeepers.

Tables turned

It was a scandal of the recent Bafta awards that no sooner were they presented than three of the heavy bronze prizes were stolen. One is now returned - by a contrite BBC-TV raiding party.

Out of sight

Sir Lawrence Gowing, whose retrospective exhibition at the Arts Council's Serpentine Gallery is to visit Newcastle, Hull and Plymouth later this year, is anxious to trace a dozen or so pictures he sold in the 1940s and '50s which have disappeared without trace.

London love

Americans are incurably romantic. Yesterday John Bryson, award-winning photographer for The Sunday Times, married Nancy Guild, sometime star of Abbot and Costello meet the Invisible Man who also once shared a billing with Francis, the talking mule.

Black power

I must have underestimated the pulling power of Channel 4. Its sub-black situation comedy series No Problem, has made folk heroes of the three stars, Malcolm Frederick, Chris Tummings and Victor Romero Evans.

Capitalism resurgent

Part Stanley football team are playing an unwanted busy list of fixtures in patriotic red, white and blue strip supplied by a Midlands firm. Their previous kit was stolen when the Argentines invaded but, says the club captain, Tony Chater: "We did not mind because it was light blue and white, the Argentine national colours, so we did not particularly want it anyway."

Anthony Bevins examines the figures in Foot's 12-point plan

How will Labour get out of this pension muddle?



Michael Foot: his plan would cost £3,000m a year



Peter Shore: only £500m left for pension increases

When Mr Michael Foot revealed Labour's 12-point plan for pensioners last month, a pledge that nine million voters would be given their rightful share in the country's future prosperity, the package was described by some jubilant campaigners as the jewel in Labour's crown.

Assuming that Mr Foot defends the jewel, Mr Fowler has done a public service in providing official figures which indicate the areas of Labour economy.

Mr Norman Fowler, the Social Services Secretary, meanwhile appears to be enjoying his own spectator sport, making statements and writing letters which put a minimum costing of between £13,000m and £15,000m on the 12-point plan, and accusing Mr Foot of "raising expectations that he knows he cannot fulfil".

Take, for one example, Mr Foot's first commitment to the leaders of the National Pensions Convention on March 1. He said then: "Ending of the earnings link by the Tories has cost a single pensioner £1.43 a week

and a married couple £2.25 a week. We shall make this good at the first opportunity." To do so would cost £500m.

But just one week later, Mr Shore made a pre-Budget economic statement in which he said: "We must start to make good now the amount by which pensioners have fallen behind the movement in other earnings". His press notice said that Labour would care for the pensioner by "making progress on the restoration of the link between pension and earnings".

Mr Fowler is undoubtedly helped by the contradictions and confusions of Labour policy, as expressed by Mr Foot and Mr Shore. The difference between the two remains stark, and so far no effort would appear to have been made to resolve them even though Mr Foot must realize that he could not obfuscate his way through an election campaign on such a sensitive and fundamental issue.

He also said that he would double the Christmas bonus to £20 (cost £106m), increase the death grant to its 1949 real level (from £30 to £200 at a cost of £120m) and cancel the 2 per cent clawback.

There remains then, one final twelfth point in Mr Foot's plan: "We shall give a television licence to pensioners free of charge." That would cost £250m. But the commitment has now been clarified in the body of Labour's campaign document, which states: "We shall phase out the television licence for pensioners, during the lifetime of the Labour Government." There is, after all, a difference between a jewel and a 12-point plan.

Polish punks: drugs, drink and the black market provide an escape for thousands of young people whose only expectation is a constant call for further sacrifice

Battle for a drop-out generation

Warsaw Backstage at Warsaw's seedy Remont Club a teenage gargoyle uses a toothbrush to apply green colouring to his hair while croaking the lyrics of Odnova (Renewal), a song that parodies the longstanding socialist catchphrase for reform: "Everything is different, everything is new, everything has changed - only the faces are the same".

Roger Boyes reports on the campaigns by church and state for the minds of Polish youth, who look for a better life after Solidarity

teachings when it comes to divorce and abortion. The battle for this uncommitted generation is not the usual shadow warfare associated with party struggle or the self-assertion of the church. It really matters. More than 50 per cent of the Polish population is under the age of 30; it is demographically one of Europe's youngest nations.

More and more young people are being drawn into the black market economy, working as illegal money-changers, selling and buying scarce goods. A friend of a friend began money-changing at the age of 15, is now at the age of 19 selling cars on the black market and will at the current rate of progress (his colleagues' joke) have surpassed Richard Nixon by the age of 23.

Secondly, Solidarity clearly identified party corruption as its main target. The villas and perks of the party leadership were contrasted with the lifestyle of the ordinary 25-year-old. Finally, the church under martial law has continually laid claim to being the true representative of the nation, its voice at a time when no other form of political opposition is practical.

Solidarity and its era was, in part, a youth revolution, a rejection of parental compromise and the middle-aged acceptance of unquestioned facts of life. Solidarity thus also rejected the idea of oligarchies - indeed this probably helped to destroy the union because it made for chaotic decision-making, and Solidarity became a great threat in the long term, to the influence of the church leadership as to the party.

The present young generation, therefore, accepts some of the benefits won by socialist rule without accepting the dogma. Similarly, though young people pack out the churches - not just on Sundays - they ignore church

Block votes behind the banners

At first sight, it seems totally improbable that a future Labour government would ever unilaterally abandon Britain's nuclear defences in the face of the combined opposition of the press, Whitehall, the armed forces, our Nato allies, the majority of the British people and the formidable section of Labour's leadership.

This scepticism is reinforced by a careful reading of Labour's campaign document. Although it states twice that "a non-nuclear defence policy" will be implemented in "the lifetime of the next Parliament", it also includes a number of escape hatches through which this apparently unqualified commitment could disappear.

There are, however, good reasons for thinking that Labour probably will not back down from its commitment to unilateral nuclear disarmament either in opposition or in government. CND has organized a highly effective lobby among trade unionists that has gone largely unnoticed by the mass media.

This trade union support for unilateralism extends beyond the left-wing unions to include such bastions of the Labour right as the steel workers' (ISTC) and the Post Office engineers (POEU). This means that there is a built-in anti-unionist majority on Labour's national executive committee, whether it is controlled by the left or the right.

The author is Editor of New Socialist.

Peter Hennessy In case of doomsday, the Otto option

One of the comforting things about burying oneself in the files of the Public Record Office and seeing a Rolls-Royce civil service workbooks to observe the detailed contingency planning that used to go on to keep Britain through a variety of disasters. The late 1940s Treasury, for example, would turn to the late Sir Richard "Otto" Clarke whenever it needed a quick doomsday exercise.

It would be of prime importance that Sir Douglas call "scenario planning" - what would happen if the supply of Saudi Arabian oil dried up, the effects of a major banking collapse because widespread nations defaulting. The Treasury has not looked at the "alternative strategy" of import controls and siege economy since Mr James Callaghan authorized it to study the ideas of Mr Tony Benn in 1976-77.

In 1948 the Treasury doomsdaywatchers were at it again. Sir Ernest Rowe-Dutton prepared a "Sterling War Book" in case the pound had to be devalued. It was devalued in 1949 and an up-dated version of Rowe-Dutton laid out who should be told - the King, the Americans, the Dominions, and in what order. Clarke was in action once more. He rattled off a paper entitled "If the talks fail" outlining what would happen if the United States administration declined to help Whitehall manage the transition to a lower exchange rate.

"It is different now," he said. "The armory of weapons you have got to deal with financial and economic crises, the reserves you have got, are much greater than you had then. A lot of instruments were ruled out. Interest rates were not used until 1951 to defend against an attack on sterling."





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QUALITY CARDIGANS

When the Home Office drafted the Bill which became the Television Act, 1954, its officials could not in their wildest flights of fancy have imagined the bizarre spectacle of the TV-am story almost 30 years later. In those days it would have been inconceivable that a former Ambassador to Washington would have teamed up with showbusiness celebrities to change the early morning habits of the nation. A combination of Sir Oliver Franks, as he then was, and Mr Hughie Green would have been material for an Ealing Comedy rather than a serious broadcasting and commercial enterprise.

There is a more serious aspect to the statutes governing independent television in the context of the Independent Broadcasting Authority acting as a watchdog while Mr Jonathan Aitken, MP, tries to pick up the pieces left by Mr Peter Jay and Mr David Frost. The Television and Sound Broadcasting Acts grant the IBA enormous powers as a disburser of franchises. They provide very little guidance as to what can be done if an enfranchised operator fails but does not transgress the statutory requirements of political impartiality, taste or decency.

The IBA clearly does not consider closure and rebirth under another franchise to be an option. Nor should it. To do so would be premature. Other companies, London Weekend Television in the early 1970s comes to mind, recovered after a very shaky start, with franchise renewal from the IBA. The eventual certificate of lasting faith. Equally, the authority could not ratify any emergency measures introduced into shape by Mr Franks merely in the hope that headline-catching, energy-saving crisis at TV-am will melt away.

WHITE LIES: BLACK LIES

A fashionable belief in the West is that the problems of survival - the search for freedom from hunger - and the demands for the "basic" freedoms of the West, such as those afforded by independent judiciary and a free press, not to mention the rights of individuals to dissent, are luxuries - it may be said - which can actually retard development by arousing passions and ambitions which should instead prevail.

one-party system, which usually spells the end of the press, is obvious. Multi-party freedoms in young, artificially created countries have often deteriorated into tribalist mudslinging or violence. There are degrees of freedom. Sometimes a modicum of popular participation in parochial matters is allowed, within a framework decreed from above; sometimes a variety of candidates is permitted within the single-party election. But the one-party model rarely offers a satisfactory way of ensuring constructive debate about fundamentals.

increasingly interpreted as synonymous with those of government. All the same, it is an awkward truth that the South African press is still freer than almost anywhere else in Africa. Whatever the variations in degree of freedom, the key point is that the exposure of wrongdoing and the discussion of policy, even within tighter limits than would be acceptable in the West, are essential to all societies; progress, however defined, flows from self-examination. Even in Africa, there is often a correlation between justice, general efficiency and press freedom.

A public for poetry

From Miss Marjorie Smith and others. Sir, Philip Howard is - unusually - wrong when he says (feature, March 23) that the general public today is not paying much attention to a modern English poetry composed of "small-cults and exhibitionist stunts... unmitigatedly at each other." Certainly not all poetry being written today is of the same kind, but to more of it than for a long time the general public is paying a great deal of attention.

I know of one large-circulation magazine of high quality which is currently searching the small magazines for good modern poets of all "cultures" for readers who may be correctly described as conventional rather than progressive. Moreover, the growing audiences want to hear poetry as well as to read it.

and differing groups as those of the Worker Writers' Federation, or a multitude of small private societies, where people may read their own probably poor verse in order to come, through criticism, to improved skill in writing, and, for most people and more importantly, to richer appreciations.

Cautious view of lead's effects

From Miss Marjorie Smith and others. Sir, An investigation we have recently completed, but which is not so far published, has been the subject of some comment both in the press and on television. We are writing to clarify our views on its implications for the "lead in petrol" debate.

should distinguish between the issues relating to the effects of lead on children and the related but separate issue of the desirability of removing lead from petrol. In relation to the former issue our research provides no definite evidence that lead at present urban levels is affecting children's development. The decision to remove lead from petrol may be judged prudent on grounds of doubt or political expediency, but this will have to be decided on many different grounds and our study can provide only one indication of uncertain significance.

Pressure in favour of refugees

From Sir Philip Goodhart, MP for Bromley, Beckenham (Conservative). Sir, My friend, Lord Elton, put the Government's side of the case for the deportation of Mr Stancu Papusoiu as clearly as possible in the House of Lords on March 29 when he said:

to accept a substantial number of these Boat People, Brazil is one of the few countries in the world that has empty land and an appropriate climate. The Brazilian Government did not respond. Brazil is now heavily in debt to the Western banking system and requires regular transfusions of very large sums of Western money to survive financially. Many other South American countries are in a similar position. A quiet word behind the scenes during the regular rounds of financial negotiations ought to produce an alternative haven for many of the unfortunate people who escape to the West but who do not really qualify for political asylum.

Forgotten island?

From Mr Stedson George. Sir, Michael Croft's article of March 19, "Wind of change in Britain's forgotten Falklands", is biased and was sullied by the insulting remarks attributed to M Martineau.

to Britain is no longer permitted. In addition to economic aid we want full British citizenship. As Mr Croft says, we have a completely British way of life here, so prospective emigrants would have no difficulty fitting into British society, unlike the ethnic minorities from the independent territories who emigrate to Britain.

Role of civil defence

From Mr John Weatherill. Sir, Supporters of civil defence seem consistently confused about its opponents' arguments. It is not simply that civil defence would necessarily be worthless at all levels of nuclear exchange in war, and certainly not at any conventional level in a prospectively major war.

declared will to use nuclear forces in need (first use). Although the strategy has apparently worked there is growing scepticism about its continuing credibility and of the official will to come to terms with this problem.

Cable TV standards

From Mr Barry Askew. Sir, The cablevision industry, in front of which Mr Richard Hoggart is so vigorously waving his red flag (feature, March 29), is unrecognisable to those of us actually applying for franchises. Our consortium, for example, is entirely British and composed of companies which are household names in Britain and of leading local people. We quite voluntarily accept the need for high standards - moral and professional - in our programmes and we are already planning a very large local and community element in them.

Building reliability

From Mr G. Graham. Sir, Charles McKean (Spectrum, March 28) did not mention that the record for reliability in private-sector house building is much better than in other parts of the construction industry. Independent surveyors confirm that major structural defects are down 50 per cent from comparable levels in 1974.

Nostell Priory painting

From Lady Mark Fitzalan Howard. Sir, Had Mr Jack Leslau (Spectrum, March 25) spent less time in the realms of fantasy, and more time studying other sixteenth century paintings, he might not have proffered his thesis on the covert reborn in the Nostell Priory "Holbein" with such enthusiasm.

Towards the middle of the sixteenth century gardens, no longer confined behind monastic walls, became more prevalent. Although botany was of growing interest as new species began reaching Europe from the Middle East, flowers which we take for granted today were rare novelties in Tudor times, and consequently not necessarily represented accurately in paintings.

Death of Joan

From Mrs Fabienne Smith. Sir, Your report on Joan of Arc in today's Times (March 29) does not mention that Professor de Sermoise is a descendant of the French knight, Robert de Sermoise, who was supposed to have married Joan. The similarity in surnames is obvious. I am not saying what he suggests cannot be true. I hope more of the details are published for us all to examine.

Purpose of medicine

From Mr Rory Coonan. Sir, I wonder whether your columnist, Roger Scruton (March 20), having seen today's photograph of an apparently ill and contorted Mr Keith Castle, still alive and looking three years after receiving a new heart, then had the heart to turn the page and re-read his own words: "How easy it proves to persuade a doctor that the shrine of the dead body should be violated for the sake of a few months of uncertain persistence in the living."

Poland and the West

From Mr S. Janicki. Sir, Mr Hatt (March 21) listed for us the territories which became victims of Soviet invasions and subsequent occupation. The Soviet task was made easier by a powerful ally of theirs during the second world war.

Taking 'The Times'

From the Reverend Robin J. Ray. Sir, The top people will always be able to afford the cost of the best newspaper but not all are able to complete The Times crossword.

Wave of respect

From Mr Benjamin Hughes. Sir, Last week in Hyde Park I saw a police constable wave to a mounted chief inspector. Can I humbly say what has happened to the former salute?





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Cyprus Telecommunications Authority occupies an enviable position among the countries with the biggest number of ISO countries connected onto their telephone system. At present sixty nine countries are connected on the Authority's ISO service and more than 50% of the world's telephones can be reached from Cyprus automatically.

One hundred and forty eight countries can be contacted by telex automatically and the rest of the world, where this service exists, via the operators.

The Satellite Earth Station "MAKARIOS" with an antenna towards the Atlantic Ocean, has been operating satisfactorily since April 1980 and a further improvement of the international network is the introduction of a satellite via the Indian Ocean Region in 1982 with a Standard B. Antenna.

A new Cyprus-Greece submarine Cable System APOLLON of 1380 channel capacity has been operational since the end of 1981, thus increasing substantially the Authority's number of international telephone and telex channels via cable.

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CYPRUS

"The Turkish army may in years to come withdraw from northern Cyprus... but Rauf Denkash's bluff little Ruritania in the north is going to survive in one form or another." So forecasts Robert Fisk in this Special Report which examines the prospects for a reunited island, and reports from either side of the so-called Attila Line.

There are times when the Greek Cypriots seem to live in a world of illusion. Fly into Larnaca on Cyprus Airways and you will find a map in the airline magazine which shows the historic sites of the island. Paphos is there, and Nicosia, and so too is Famagusta and Kyrenia. Only when you read the fine print, however, are you told that you cannot actually travel to Famagusta or Kyrenia or Bellapais or Salamis or anywhere else in the Turkish-held area north of the Attila line.

The illusion is fostered in other ways. All over the southern half of Cyprus, road signs point to places that you cannot travel to. In Nicosia, motorists are directed towards Famagusta or the mountain range north of the city despite the fact that for nine years the front lines of two large armies have cut the roads. The Cyprus telephone directory seems to have been produced in a world of make-believe. There are pages and pages of telephone numbers for Kyrenia, Famagusta and other towns in the Turkish-held part of the island. The Greek Cypriots listed in these pages fled - or were killed - almost a decade ago, but the directory still stubbornly insists that their phones are only "temporarily" out of order. After nine years, one has to ask when temporary becomes permanent.

The illusion is both brave and dangerous. That anyone can still believe the island will be reunited is something of an achievement. But one day the Greek Cypriots are going to have to agree publicly - as many already do privately - that the Cyprus they once knew is not going to return. The Turkish Army may in years to come withdraw from northern Cyprus but the "Turkish Federated State" - Rauf Denkash's bluff little Ruritania in the north - is going to survive in one form or another.

In a sense, the re-election of President Spyros Kyprianou in February was a mark of the growing sense of reality among Greek Cypriots. Kyprianou's efforts to solve the "Cyprus problem", to re-unify the island, had been lacklustre to say the least. The intercommunal talks held under the auspices of the United Nations had become little more than coffee-and-cake affairs. Kyprianou had promised to awake the world's conscience to the crisis on the island.

But the world grew tired and Kyprianou's two contenders for the presidency - the Rally Party's pro-Western Glafkos Clerides and the Socialist Party's Vassos Lyssarides - claimed that their efforts would have more effect on international opinion. The electorate none the less preferred the

hitherto ineffectual but more familiar path of Kyprianou who picked up more than 56 per cent of the vote. And he did so by encouraging the view that the United States had taken Turkey's side in the dispute. It is a common refrain - perhaps not an unjustified one - but it symbolizes the inherent contradictions in Greek Cypriot politics. Kyprianou, who is scarcely renowned for any radical, leftist sympathies, is supported by the communist Akel Party. Yet Cyprus is in no revolutionary ferment. Its economy is expanding - inflation is declining and the estimated expansion in the economy for 1983 is 4.5 per cent, almost double that of the previous year - and not one of the presidential candidates this year talked of social reform.

The geography of Larnaca and Limassol is being transformed by the tourist industry. In the 14 months up to September last year, hotel capacity expanded by almost 25 per cent, and immigration queues at Larnaca Airport are now filled daily with hundreds of European tourists. Greek Cyprus is turning into another of those wealthy, slightly greedy Mediterranean sunspots. It can take three quarters of an hour to clear customs at Larnaca and the taxi drivers have begun to cheer again, just as they did

before the Turkish invasion of 1974. Good times breed bad habits.

Not the least of these is the sprawling, ugly development of the capital, where planners have made little or no attempt to preserve the character of what was an extremely attractive city. Not four years ago, for example, one of the most charming restaurants of Nicosia was Charlie's Bar, a traditional, barbecue-type cafe in an old Ottoman villa near the city centre. One day, the patrons turned up to find bulldozers tearing down the building for an office block. Most of the restaurants in Nicosia now appear to be disconcerting and hokey-tanky bars catering for the island's ubiquitous United Nations garrison.

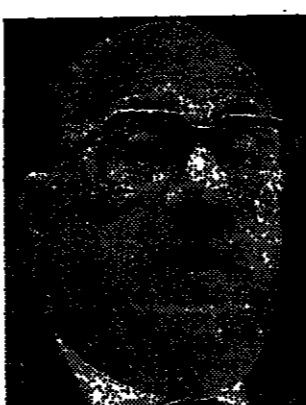
What the Greek Cypriots never seem to consider is the effect that all this conspicuous wealth is likely to have on the possibility of reunifying Cyprus. True, the Turkish Federated State exists, albeit without international recognition. True, Rauf Denkash insists on a constitution which gives Turkish Cypriots real security. He suggests that there are two choices: a bi-communal federation or two republics joined by a non-aggression pact. Yet the Greek Cypriots are transforming their society in such a way that the latter may become a social as well as a political necessity.

The Turkish Cypriots may survive on a combination of local industry, funds from Turkey and dubious trans-shipment deals, but there is no evidence that they covet the prosperity of southern Cyprus. Greek Cyprus is represented among the councils of the Third World although the Turkish half of the island is infinitely more Third World in character than the sleek administration in the south. And perhaps the Third World is beginning to realize this. At the non-aligned conference in New Delhi, delegates called for the "immediate withdrawal" of occupation forces from Cyprus whereas the earlier Havana summit had demanded their "immediate and unconditional withdrawal".

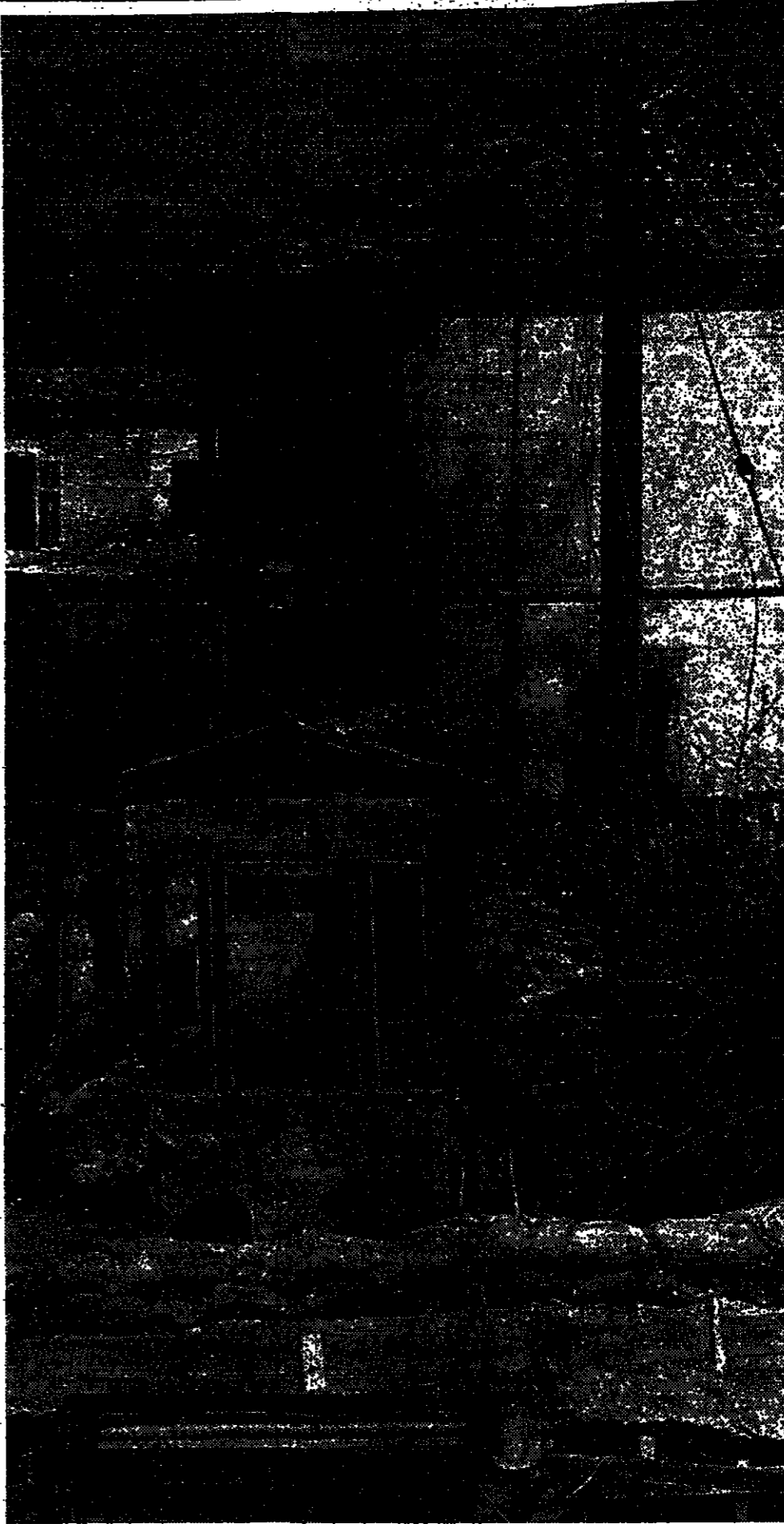
With the West ever more enamoured of General Evren's stern regime in Ankara and with Andreas Papandreu's increasingly socialist government in Athens, there appears little hope at present of any progress in the reunification of the island. There are those who believe that Britain, as a guarantor of Cyprus's sovereignty, should play some role in a new initiative. But Britain will first have to decide whether perhaps the Greek and Turkish Cypriots - despite the obligatory rhetoric of their leaders - are not now happier with the status quo.



President Spyros Kyprianou, the island's legal head of state.



Rauf Denkash, the Turkish Cypriot leader, sees two choices - a bi-communal republic, or two republics joined by a non-aggression pact.



Life among the rubble along the great Cyprus divide

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**CYPRUS**

There is high inflation, flight of capital, no central banking system or monetary management programme, lack of development aid, a deteriorating balance of trade, foreign debts and low productivity. Saddled with all these problems, the economy of the Turkish-controlled area of Cyprus started 1983 on a gloomy note, after failing completely to reach the goals of its first five-year plan (1977-1982). Its economy ground to a halt in 1981 and achieved a meagre 0.9 per cent growth rate last year - from the planned 7 per cent.

In the face of this stagnation, the administration of Rauf Denktaş continues to drag its feet over the implementation of proposed economic stability measures, preferring instead to rely on the established system of free enterprise and placing much of the blame for the slump on the Greek-Cypriot economic embargo.

A part of the community's difficulties stem from inexperience: the "Turkish Federated State of Cyprus" was proclaimed in 1975, a year after the Turkish army intervention in Cyprus and 12 years after a provisional administration assumed the task of governing the 125,000 Turkish-Cypriot residents of the island in 1963. In 1975 lack of skilled labour was such a problem, says a government official, that "we couldn't even find people to repair lifts." Now they have lift repairmen, but they lack trained white collar workers, especially in finance. "The lack of the personnel, coupled with the absence of a central bank," says Errol Gur, director general of State Planning Organization, "have made adequate control of banks impossible."

More problematic is the schizophrenic nature of the community's status. "Are we a bird or a camel?" is the way Turkish-Cypriots describe their dilemma as an autonomous community that has not sought or received international recognition, is still technically a part of the Republic of Cyprus, and is totally dependent on a third party - Turkey - for its survival.

The Cyprus pound remains legal tender here, but since the Turkish Cypriots have no means of earning pounds, the Turkish lira has become their *de facto* currency. This lifeline from Turkey occasionally becomes a noose, for while the Cyprus pound is strong, the lira is subject to constant devaluation and persistent inflation. However, recent economic austerity measures in Turkey have also benefited the Turkish-Cypriots, who managed to reduce their own inflation from an astronomical 123.7 per cent in 1979 to 33.5 per cent in 1982.

This is little consolation to the average Turkish-Cypriot, whose real income declined to under £660 this year. (His Greek counterpart earns nearly five times that amount.) He has to work two days to earn a pair of shoes. Housing is scarce and expensive, as are amenities like telephones (there is a two year wait for one).

The one bright spot in the economy is unemployment -

**ECONOMY - THE NORTH**

**A gloomy start to the new year**

officially only 2.6 per cent, although the real figure may be closer to 10 per cent. This has been achieved at the cost of productivity. The unwieldy civil service is a case in point: 11,000 people, many of them teachers, work for the government (the second largest employer); half of them, says Gur, are superfluous. And 50 per cent of the 17,760m lira 1983 budget will go on their salaries.

The wide disparity between the two economies of Cyprus is especially frustrating for the Turkish-Cypriots. They feel that economic stability has been achieved in the south through development aid which was not shared with the Turkish community and for which, as an unrecognized state, they cannot apply. Aid is badly needed to finance such projects as citrus irrigation (£31.5m) and the purchase of their own commercial airplane (\$10m).

Implementation of a 30m ECU (£19m) EEC protocol to Cyprus for 1979-1982 was delayed when the Greek-Cypriots protested that no aid should go to the Turkish community. In the end most of the aid went to the south, Turkish-Cypriot Foreign Minis-

ter Kenan Atakol recently went to Brussels, where he told EEC officials that a planned second aid package should go to both sides or to neither.

Turkey has agreed to undertake as much of the development programmes as it can afford, including the first phase of the Morphou irrigation project, (which will be completed in June). And it continues to fund more than half of the budget of the Turkish-Cypriot government. This is greatly reduced from 1963, when it provided 90 per cent of the budget, but instead of becoming more self-sufficient, the Turkish-Cypriots are becoming more dependent: from funding a high of 53 per cent of their own budget in 1979, they have sagged to a projected 37 per cent in 1983.

Total aid in 1982 amounted to 6,399m lira, most of which Turkey provided. Because of the need to import nearly all consumer goods, the 1982 trade deficit was \$80.3m; it was partly offset by tourism revenues, leaving a balance of payments deficit of \$42.8m.

Twenty per cent of the gdp and 70 per cent of the export income stem from agriculture, with citrus providing the lion's share. In 1981 160,000 tons were produced, of which 60 per cent was exported (much of it to the UK). Two thirds of the citrus industry is state-owned.

The second-most important source of foreign revenue, tourism, faces similar problems. The number of tourists to northern Cyprus has steadily declined in five years from 112,910 to 87,629 (65,322 from Turkey). The only "positive development", according to Gur, is that the number of European tourists has slowly increased.

Potential tourists face a number of difficulties just getting to northern Cyprus: because Ercan airport is not accepted by the International Air Transport Association, flights must be routed through Turkey. And Greek-Cypriots have applied extreme pressure on travel agents not to book tourists into "illegally owned" hotels (all but one hotel were Greek-Cypriot owned). None of the less gross receipts (3,900m lira) outstripped all exports last year.

Perhaps the most serious stumbling block to growth is the lack of foreign and domestic capital for investment. Domestic savings are far below expectations (3 per cent of the gdp in 1982) because of an archaic island law limiting interest on savings to 9 per cent with inflation at 33 per cent and Turkish banks offering rates six times as high, the savings end up in Turkey, effectively "recycling" the aid from Turkey as soon as it arrives and draining the banks. With no

**ECONOMY - THE SOUTH**

**Time of opportunity and uncertainty**

President Spyros Kyprianou's decisive re-election in February leaves the economic policy-makers facing both opportunities and some uncertainty. With parliamentary and presidential elections out of the way, the government can now concentrate on taking long-delayed decisions with less concern for electoral considerations. But at the same time Mr Kyprianou and his ministers will be aware that the communist Akei party contributed 34 per cent of his 57 per cent majority, and it will be seeking to translate this support into a greater role in decision making.

Fears of undue communist influence on what has traditionally been a free-enterprise economy have already affected investment, both domestic and foreign. A number of foreign enterprises with a long history in Cyprus have left in recent months.

The most notable departures were those of two British banks, Grindlays and Chartered, each of which sold out all its operations to a local bank in late 1982. The reasons were not entirely political. Cyprus is certainly overbanked, making profitability of the branches marginal relative to the management resources required to run them. And Grindlays in particular was badly hit by the law of 1974 suspending payments on debts affected by the Turkish occupation of the north. Nevertheless, the departures were a blow to confidence, especially when coupled with others by, for example, Wool-

worth and the Petrofina petrol-station chain, both of which also sold out to local interests.

The fears of foreign investors are, perhaps, a panic reaction arising from a misunderstanding of Cyprus politics. Akei's support has been essential to almost every government since independence, but its influence has been exercised with a moderation that often surprises foreign observers. In particular, Akei and its affiliated PEO trade union federation have been remarkably restrained on economic policy, and the party is unlikely to win significant changes.

This was made clear just before the election, when the cabinet formally approved the 1982-86 five-year economic plan. The outlines of the plan were announced in late 1981, when they were attacked by Akei as too conservative. The party's delayed approval was seen as a signal to the electorate that the alliance with Akei would not be allowed to significantly affect economic policy.

The plan is significant in that it returns to medium-term planning, after the three shorter "emergency action" plans which followed the Turkish invasion in 1974. The first two of these succeeded in rebuilding the shattered economy, bringing unemployment down from a peak of more than 30 per cent immediately after the invasion to less than 2 per cent by 1978.

By then, the economy had overheated to such an extent that stability was seriously



Nevertheless, the government has stated that it is willing to step in to finance investment opportunities ignored by the private sector.

This may make it difficult to control the budget deficit, planned to reach a record Cyprus £96m this year. The deficit has been blamed by many local economists - including those from the central bank - for stimulating inflation and the trade deficit.

The new five-year plan calls for a steadily declining fiscal deficit. But it is difficult to see how this can be achieved, especially if the government has to take a larger share of capital investment.

Expenditure on major irrigation schemes to modernize the agricultural sector will peak in the mid-1980s. Spending on refugees continues at a high level, and debt-servicing will make greater demands on resources. Unless these conflicting demands are reconciled, the government's deficit may prove a serious brake to what has been - under the circumstances - a remarkable economic success story.

**Shakib Otaqui**  
Middle East Economic Digest

threatened by spiralling wage increases and inflation, widening budget deficits and a potentially disastrous growth in the payments deficit. That was in spite of rising revenues from tourism and other invisibles.

A stabilization programme with the 1979-81 plan brought the economy under control, but at the cost of a recession that badly hit the construction industry in particular. Inflation was brought down from a 13.5 per cent peak in 1980 to 10.8 per cent, and the trade deficit was reduced, but at the cost of a drop in gross domestic product (gdp) growth to only 2.4 per cent in 1981.

Last year - the first under the new plan - showed mixed results. Gdp growth accelerated to 4 per cent in real terms, inflation was down further to about 6.5 per cent, while unemployment was held to below 3 per cent. But capital investment was again disappointing, boding ill for the competitiveness of Cypriot exports in the future.

That problem can only grow unless a way can be found to stimulate investment. Exports boomed in the mid-1970s, as Cyprus found ready markets for its manufacturers in the oil-fuelled economies of the Middle East. Many of these exports were labour-intensive low-technology products, such as clothing and footwear, which now face severe competition from low-cost producers in the Far East.

At the same time, Cyprus has become vulnerable to its dependence on Arab markets, which now account for almost half of its total exports. This has aroused a lot of concern locally, especially after problems in obtaining payments from Libya, one of Cyprus's largest markets.

In spite of booming exports, the trade deficit continues to grow and reached a record

Cyprus £310m in 1982. About half of this was covered by the cost of high foreign borrowing - which has also been necessary to cover an ever-growing budget deficit. Total foreign debt rose by 85 per cent during the 1979-81 plan. And dependence on tourist revenues is very dangerous, since the industry is so vulnerable to political shocks.

As the country moves further into the 1980s, the government is emphasizing a shift to high-technology capital-intensive industries, which would utilize Cyprus's more than adequate supply of skilled manpower. It is also stressing the development of the island into a regional service centre, taking advantage of its excellent geographical position and communications facilities.

Both these developments, however, depend on confidence in the island's stability on the part of the international business community. They also require a more explicit government policy on foreign investment. A free industrial zone at Larnaca, for example, has been completed for more than a year. But its marketing abroad has been delayed while regulations on its operation continue to be discussed.

The government is trying to transform Cyprus's small, family-oriented businesses into modern public corporations to meet the challenges of the future. Tax incentives to this end have already been introduced, the island's first mer-

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TOURISM - THE NORTH

Crossroads of eight civilizations

Getting there is half the battle, but in spite of the problems - or perhaps because of them - it is well worth the extra effort to visit the still unspoilt countryside and beaches of northern Cyprus. For it is these very difficulties that have kept the tiny Turkish-Cypriot community from the onslaught of people, pollution, and progress that its natural beauty, historic sites, and Mediterranean setting would otherwise have invited.



Fruit, vegetables, flowers - a typical market scene in everyday Cyprus

Kyrenia's elegant Dome Hotel (once known as the "Doom") because of the number of "ancient Britons" who stayed there) you can watch the fishermen in rowing boats setting their nets at night. In the evening there are discos, casinos, and, of course, eating.

But its people. The Turkish sense of hospitality is legendary, and there still persists the notion that a visitor is not an intruder but a guest. Waiters, bartenders, and restaurant owners are eager to start up a conversation (English is widely spoken) and it is not uncommon in such cases, after you have downed a strong Turkish coffee and read your future in the empty cup, for the café owner to consider you a "friend" and refuse payment.

TOURISM - THE SOUTH

New Towns for old

No matter how thick the velvet glove, being pushed around by authority still hurts. And the Greek Cypriots clinging grimly on to the part of the island left after the invasion by Turkish troops in 1974 are in no mood to be nudged, even by their own people.

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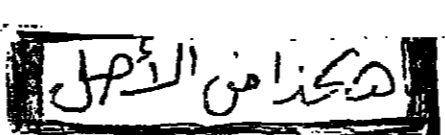
SOLUTION OF CYPRUS PROBLEM LONG OVERDUE

Cyprus is an historic island with one of the most ancient civilizations of the world. However, her geographic position in the Eastern Mediterranean, at the crossroads of three continents, has made her very vulnerable in the sense that she was frequently the victim of foreign invasion and occupation. Thus, Cyprus fell in the hands of many conquerors; but the worse calamity ever inflicted on Cyprus in 4000 years is the one caused by the invasion of Turkey in the summer of 1974.

Communal talks mainly for the purpose of misleading world opinion while at the same time proceeding with the consolidation of the faits accomplis created by the invasion. While the intercommunal talks were taking place, new steps were taken by the Turkish side that went against the agreed basis of the talks. Every day new steps are taken against the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity and unity of Cyprus.

Cyprus. The Cyprus Government is prepared to agree to the stationing in the Republic of Cyprus, for as long as necessary, of an international U.N. Police Force which would supervise a united Greek Cypriot-Turkish Cypriot Police Force composed in accordance with the population ratio.

Conference, Inter alia, reiterated its full solidarity with and support for the people and Government of the Republic of Cyprus and reaffirmed its respect for that country's independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and non-alignment. The Heads of State or Government also expressed their deep concern over the fact that part of the Republic of Cyprus continues to remain under foreign occupation and demanded the immediate withdrawal of all occupation forces as an essential basis for the solution of the Cyprus problem.



MARKET REPORT by Andrew Cornelius

BTR attempts dawn raid

AGENCY DAY: Dealings began, March 21. Dealings end, April 6. Contango Day, April 11. Settlement Day, April 18.

profit taking on the eve of the financial year and special situations.

Even before this markets were looking for lower interest rates in the United States, and speculating that Fed funds could drop to 8.75 per cent, from the recent levels at about 10 per cent caused by Treasury settlements.

Long gilts closed up a point, medium were a half better, and shorts were up a quarter. But volume was light.

Gold mining shares figured strongly among the larger rises of the day, after the first rise of the gold price - up \$15.50 at \$430. That rise was partly to compensate for the lower dollar, and also based technical factors after the long weekend holiday.

West Rand Consolidated was up 44p at 56c, Western Areas rose 23p at 38p, East Rand was 16p higher at 49c. East Dagsa gained 16p at 28p, and Leslie rose 14p at 28p.

The Dowable consortium, which is bidding £24m for Cope Allam International, is stuck-

pensions and other emoluments are topped up. Cope says the true figures are an increase of 6.5 per cent last year and 8.3 per cent the year before.

Shares in Saatchi & Saatchi, the advertising agency were a strong market after some bullish news at the company's annual meeting in London. Shareholders attending the meeting were told that the results of a streamlined management structure are beginning to show through and that the growing world market for advertising expenditures mean that prospects for 1982 are very good. Muirhead, the electrical company were down by 5p to 137p on market fears that Tyke the US stakeholder plans to sell its stake in Muirhead.

P. Brotherhood's shares were also down by 14p to 13p on the agreed bid from Thermo Electronics.

London & Liverpool Trust was another company with shares on the slide by 18p to 412p with investors profit taking after the recent large rises in the company's price brought about by the £8m bid for exclusive rights to screen soccer matches over the next two seasons.

In particular Dowable, led by Mr David Wickens, the British Car Auctions' chairman, says Cope's directors' salaries went up by 38 per cent last year if

ing by its letter to Cope shareholders despite accusations from their board of being "selective" and "misleading".

Prepare for some more stock-market action from Mr Robert Maxwell, chairman, of the British Printing & Communications Corporation. He is on the lookout for a video manufacturing business to add to the BPC's stable and says that he will also increase BPC's 12 per cent stake in cable television company, SelectTV where he is also chairman, if he gets the chance. However he is saying nothing about speculation that he is planning a reverse takeover of Hollis by his privately-owned company Pergamon Press.

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RECENT ISSUES table with columns for Issue Name, Price, and Change.

BRITISH FUNDS table with columns for Fund Name, Price, Change, and % P/E.

MEDIUMS table with columns for Fund Name, Price, Change, and % P/E.

LONGS table with columns for Fund Name, Price, Change, and % P/E.

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN table with columns for Fund Name, Price, Change, and % P/E.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES table with columns for Authority Name, Price, Change, and % P/E.

DOLLAR STOCKS table with columns for Stock Name, Price, Change, and % P/E.

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS table with columns for Bank Name, Price, Change, and % P/E.

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL table with columns for Company Name, Price, Change, and % P/E.

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BELL'S SCOTCH WHISKY advertisement with logo and text.

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Investment and Finance

City Editor Anthony Hilton

THE TIMES

City Office 200 Gray's Inn Road London WC1X 8EZ Telephone 01-837 1234

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 654.0 down 1.1 FT All Shares: 80.97 down 0.15 FT All Shares: 412.09 up 4.46 Bargains: 26,305 Trading Hall USM Index: 169.1 down 0.8 Tokyo: 8420.34 down 65.48 Hongkong closed New York: Dow Jones Average (latest) 1193 up 5.5

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE Sterling \$1.5025 up 190 pts Index 80.3 up 0.8 DM 3.6400 Fr 9.9050 Y 957.50 Dollar Index 122.4 down 0.3 DM 2.4203 down 69 pts Gold \$430 up \$15.15 NEW YORK LATEST Gold \$428.75 Sterling \$1.5040

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates: Base rate 10% 3 month interbank 10 3/4-10 7/8 Euro-currency rates: 3 month dollar 9 3/8-9 1/2 3 month DM 5 3/4-5 1/2 3 month Y 5 3/4-5 1/2 ECGB Fixed rate Sterling Euro Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period Mch 2 to April 5, inclusive: 10.91 per cent.

PRICE CHANGES

APV Holdings 3p up 13p BP 34p up 12p Leasie 28p up 1b Marks & Spencer 19p up 5p RTZ 517p up 48p Tilling T 175 1/2 up 8 1/2 AB Electronics 45p down 27p BTR 432p down 1p Brit & Commonwealth 840p down 20p Exco Intl 663p down 20p De La Rue 57 1/2 up 10p Unilever 830p down 10p

TOLY

Interim: A. schman, Trident Computerservices Finals: Brax, Bruntons (Musselburgh), Christies, Coates Bros, Fothergill and Harvey, John Jacob, Phoenix, G. W. Sparrow, Sun Alliance and London Ins., Arthur Woodard Son (Longport York Mart). Economic statistics: UK official reserve (March), Credit business (P), Wholesale price index numbers (March), Retail sales (Feb-final), Housing

Zurich date for Romania

Romania will meet a small group of leading Western creditor banks in Zurich on April 13 and 14 to review progress proposals to reschedule \$600m of 1983 commercial debt. About 3 per cent of Romania's 200 eastern creditor banks are believed to have responded positively to rescheduling proposals agreed in principle in February between Romania and the steering group of nine banks which has been leading negotiations. The Zurich meeting will review responses from the 200 banks and could set a signing date for an agreement.

NEW CHAIRMAN: Mr Robert Haslam has taken over as chairman of Tate and Lyle replacing Lord Jellicoe who has become a non-executive director following his appointment as chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board. Mr Haslam was formerly vice-chairman of the group. Mr J. O. Lyle has retired as president and a member of the board.

OIL DEAL: Mexico will continue cooperating with Venezuela to send cheap oil to Central America and the Caribbean. Petroleos Mexicanos (Pemex), the state oil company, said Pemex said it will continue the scheme, supplying 160,000 barrels a day to nine countries at 70 per cent of full price, until August at least.

TRADE DECLINES: Foreign trade by the world's industrialized countries declined for the second consecutive year in 1982, reflecting global recession, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Exports by industrialized countries totalled \$1,160,000m (£781,144m) last year, down 5.3 per cent from a year earlier. Imports totalled \$1,222,000m, down 6.1 per cent from 1981. The United States experienced the sharpest decline.

Wall Street opens up in active trading

New York-Wall Street prices opened higher in active trading. The Dow Jones industrial average was ahead 4.16 to 1,131.76 shortly after the market opened. Advances led declines 549 to 308 among the 1,289 issues crossing the NYSE tape. Early turnover amounted to about 7,856,000 shares. Observers noted the market firmed late on Monday and that trend carried over at the outset of this session. Many experts said investors would be keeping an eye on Federal Funds rates to determine whether the Federal Reserve has tightened credit a bit to stem a surge in the nation's money supply in recent months. Short-term Federal Funds rates dropped to about 9 1/2 per cent Monday after surging to 10 1/2 per cent late last week. If the charges remain high, analysts said that might indicate the Fed, which late Friday reported a \$400m increase in the nation's money supply, has indeed tightened.

Volcker to fight curbs on Fed

From Bailey Morris, Washington. The US Federal Reserve Board is engaged in a congressional dispute over what it regards as a dangerous attempt by the House Banking Committee to curb its ability to set monetary policy. Mr Paul Volcker, the central bank's chairman, said yesterday that he would refuse to comply with a House directive that he provide Congress with the bank's detailed objectives for economic growth, unemployment and inflation rates for this and the next three years. Mr Volcker intends to mount next week a campaign to convince Congress that it would be extremely dangerous for legislators to limit the Fed's traditional independence.

According to an official, Mr Volcker believes that it is only the first step in a move by Congress to begin dictating policy to the central bank. Federal Reserve officials fear their ability to control both inflation and credit growth would be seriously eroded if Congress attempted to direct the central bank to seek specific economic growth rates. But Congressional critics of the central bank believe that the Fed's decision to pursue a tight money course early in the Reagan Administration caused the deep recession and provided a good reason to place curbs on the bank's independence.

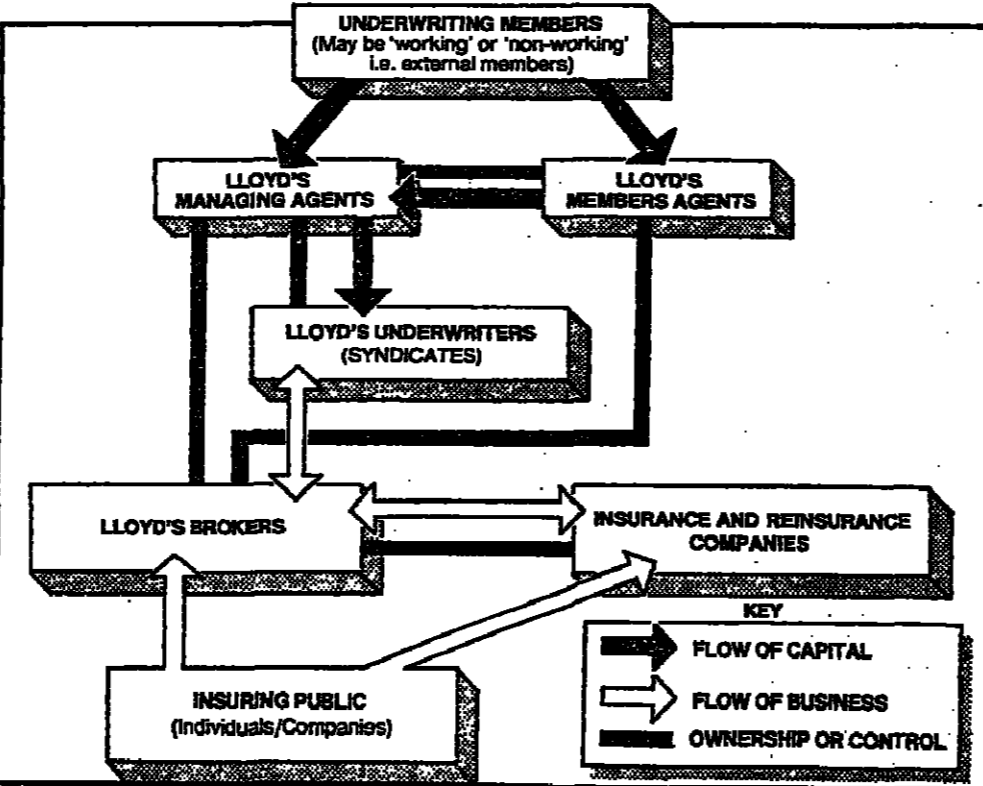
Mr Fernand St. Germain, chairman of the House Banking Committee, has told Mr Volcker that he is required to provide Congress with the requested information under provisions contained in the 1984 House budget resolution. Mr Germain and other congressmen believe that if the central bank is required to state publicly its economic objectives then it will not be able to change course unexpectedly and move, for example, to tighten credit controls just as the recovery is picking up steam. Recent indications that the Federal Reserve may have taken steps to tighten credit, thus putting pressure for a rise in interest rates, in response to a big surge in the money supply has accentuated the fears of Democrats.

Working party sets out proposals to prevent abuse of system

Lloyd's 'should retain underwriting control'

By Peter Wilson-Smith Banking Correspondent

Control and ownership of Lloyd's underwriting agencies should remain firmly in the hands of members of the London insurance market, although outsiders should be allowed to hold up to a third of the voting power, a Lloyd's working party has recommended. If accepted by the Lloyd's Council, the proposals of the working party, headed by Mr Alec Higgins, will have an important influence on the future of the Lloyd's market. The divestment clause in the Lloyd's Act requires Lloyd's brokers to sell off their underwriting management agents. The working party was set up after an undertaking to Parliament to enquire into all aspects of the underwriting agency system at Lloyd's. Apart from proposals on ownership of managing agents, the working party has also put forward recommendations on ownership and control of members' agents. About 114 managing agents are affected by the divestment clause and the working party recommends that not less than two-thirds of the voting power should be beneficially owned by either working or external names for whom the agent in question acts. It also recommends restricting the stake held by any one person to 40 per cent and requiring Council permission for holdings of over 10 per cent. It recommends that Council consent for stakes over 10 per cent should be expected to be given only to working members



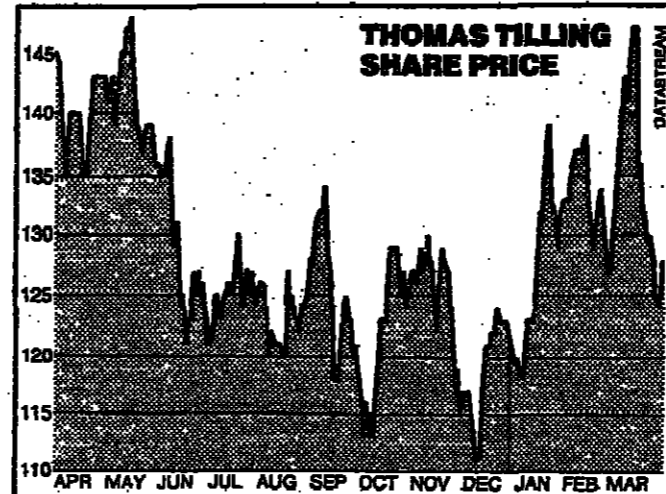
and that working members should make up not less than two-thirds of the board of directors of the managing agent. By proposing to allow outsiders to control a third of the voting shares in managing agents, the working party has introduced an important concession from its consultative document issued last September. The party has been concerned to ensure that ownership and

Target company chief condemns move as 'opportunistic'

£500m takeover battle looms after BTR's dawn raid on Tilling

By Jeremy Warner

A £500m plus takeover battle loomed in the City yesterday when BTR launched a dawn raid on the stock market for 15 per cent of the shares of Thomas Tilling, a conglomerate with medical equipment insurance, building materials and oil industry interests. The raid, only partly successful, was immediately condemned by Sir Patrick Meaney, Tilling's chief executive, as "opportunistic". He made clear at a brief meeting yesterday with Mr Owen Green, managing director, that any future bid would be unwelcome. To stand any chance of success, it would have to value the group at well over £500m. BTR, a fast-growing industrial components group with a stock market value of over £1,000m, employed the stock broking firm of Cazenove to buy 43.6m or nearly 15 per cent of Tilling's shares at 175p each. Although this was a substantial premium on the 125p at which the share opened in the stock market, Cazenove had managed to buy only 16.5m shares by the close, giving it a stake of just 5.5 per cent. Cazenove told sellers that it was not BTR's intention to mount a full bid but the company refused to confirm this last night. It is believed that BTR is prepared to return with a share and cash bid pitched at more than 175p and this helps explain the lukewarm response to yesterday's dawn raid. BTR was strongly rumoured to be preparing a major bid last Thursday but it was thought that its target would be Burnham Oil. Yesterday's raid on Tilling would appear to rule out that possibility. A full-scale bid for Tilling now would hit the company at an extremely vulnerable stage. There has been considerable



City disillusion over Tilling since it reported last month a plunge in yearly pre-tax profits from £73.6m to £43.7m. Sir Patrick said, "Our profits have hit an all-time low mainly because of write offs in the oil-

BTR and Tilling so I can only suppose that it is their aim to come in and break up its businesses. Well we can do that as well as they can." However, city analysts were yesterday pointing out that BTR's style of management has been much more aggressive than that of Tilling over the last five years. Both conglomerates have used substantial quantities of new share capital to make acquisitions but BTR appears to have been far more successful. One analyst said, "BTR has made its assets work a lot harder than Tilling do, if it comes to a battle of management styles, BTR is likely to win hands down." Any future bid by BTR would be the biggest City takeover attempt since two rival £500m bids for the Royal Bank of Scotland were blocked by the Government just over a year ago. But it would probably escape a Monopolies Commission reference.

City Comment

Home loan hawks are gathering

Pressure is mounting within the building societies for an increase in rates and this week's meeting of the Building Societies Association Council is likely to be the last when the doves will win the day. Demand for home loans is running at record levels. Last month, the societies lent nearly £1,500m, a 50 per cent increase on the same time last year. The hawks on the BSA Council would prefer to pull in more money with higher investment rates, even if it means a mortgage rate increase of 1.5 per cent. They argue that the housebuying public would prefer to pay a little more for their loans but be certain that money was available when it was required. The problem has been the banks which stepped into the home-loan market two years ago with rash promises of a long-term presence, only to pull out, with equal haste when the going got tough. Bank lending on home loans reached a peak last October when it topped £440m but has since fallen below £140m a month. The societies - which warned at the time that mortgage demand is virtually insatiable - are now being forced to pick up this extra lending. Building society receipts since the beginning of the year have fallen below £400m a month, compared with the £700m required to meet mortgage demand. The societies have been forced to fall back on their liquidity cushion which has dropped from nearly 21 per cent at the end of last year to 18 per cent today. March net receipts were not good and insult has been added to injury by National Savings doubling of the amount which can be invested in the present issue of National Savings Certificates from £2,500 to £5,000. Banks base rates are still 1.5 per cent above the level of last November when the building societies last changed their rates. Pressure to increase building society rates is considerable within the council, the restraining factors seem to be the fear of Mrs Thatcher's response (horror stories of the lashing meted out to the banks when they wanted to raise their rates are widespread) - and the desire of the societies to get the legislation they want passed by the next government, if it is headed by Mrs. Thatcher.

Lasmo in £75,000 pay-off

By Jonathan Davis, Energy Correspondent

Shareholders of Lasmo, the independent British oil company, are being asked to approve an ex gratia payment of £75,000 to Mr Hector Watts, the company's former chief executive, who reluctantly retired last year to make way for a younger man. A resolution proposing the payment is to be put to the annual meeting to be held at the Barbican Centre on April 26. The sum was decided upon by a special committee, and is understood to be about a year of Mr Watts's salary. In the company's annual report and accounts, Mr Geoffrey Searle, the chairman of Lasmo, says he strongly recommends shareholders to approve the payment in the light of the company's performance since Mr Watts joined in early 1979. Mr Searle says: "Shareholders who have seen the expansion and progress in profitability since 1979 will appreciate what he has achieved." In the last four years Lasmo has grown from a small financial holding company employing less than 10 people to an international exploration and production company with several hundred staff. Pretax profits have leapt from £23.4m to £123.3m. Mr Watts's departure comes after the board's appointment last November of Mr Chris Greenlee, a 47-year-old Canadian oilman, to the post of chief executive. Mr Watts had originally expected to retire at the age of 65, but was effectively persuaded to leave earlier, when he was still only 60. Mr Watts would not comment publicly on the affair yesterday, but Mr Searle says that the matter had been resolved in a "gentlemanly" manner. He would be personally recommending the payment at this month's annual meeting.

Ford claims Sierra March best-seller

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The intensifying competition between Ford and BL in Britain's booming car market reached a new peak yesterday, with Ford claiming that its Sierra model had beaten the Metro to become the March best-seller. Ford said that, within six months of the Sierra's launch, the model had won a forecast 10.5 per cent of a single month's sales. The Metro is likely to be the number two seller, followed by the Ford Escort and Fiesta. Total new car sales for March, as predicted in The Times last week, are about 190,000 compared with 175,169 a year ago, boosting the total for the first quarter to about 470,000 and strengthening the view that the 1983 market could set a record of 1.8 million. Ford, now in the middle of a sales campaign worth up to £350 a car in dealer incentives, said it was clear that, in March, no other model could catch the Sierra. In a statement indicative of the cut-throat nature of the market, Ford said: "This is in spite of rival leadership claims made earlier in March for specific periods of the month." After the first 20 days of March, BL claimed that the Metro had won 10.7 per cent of sales, and the new Maestro almost 5 per cent. The one major shadow across the industry's hopes of a boom year are the damaging disputes at BL and Ford which could seriously undermine both companies' spring sales drives and allow imports, which are starting to show signs of being depressed, to rise again. Ford, in singing the praises of the Sierra, said yesterday that the car had risen from a 2.5 per cent market share last October to 8.5 per cent in February and 10.5 per cent last month.

Barclays-TSB cashpoint link

The country's cash dispenser machines were yesterday divided into two nationwide rival networks, when Barclays announced that it was linking with the Trustee Savings Bank and the Bank of Scotland to allow customers of one bank to use any of the three banks' machines.

Barclays is also discussing a bi-lateral link with Yorkshire Bank. It has already announced a similar though not identical link with the Bank of Scotland, Lloyds, the Royal Bank of Scotland and Williams & Glyn's.

Bid battle likely for Johnson

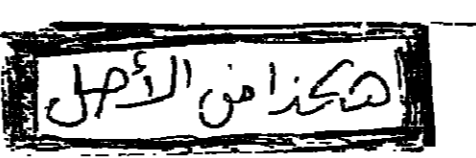
By Jonathan Clare

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission's findings on whether two bids for Johnson group cleaners should be stopped are with the Trade Secretary whose decision is not expected before the end of the month. City opinion is, marginally, that the two bidders, Sunlight Service Group and Intial, will be allowed to fight it out for control of Johnson which successfully defeated a bid by Sketcheley in 1977, through a monopolies ruling. Sunlight's original bid, made last June via a convoluted share package, was worth about £30m or 27 1/2 p a share. Intial could easily outbid Sunlight but probably would not pay entirely in cash. Investors' Notebook, page 22



Savour the finest Gascony cuisine, prepared by a team of chefs led by Andre Daguin of the celebrated Hotel de France, Auch. Monsieur Daguin's restaurant is famous among connoisseurs of superb food the world over, and holds two coveted stars in the Michelin Guide. The Festival Gastronomique Gasconne will be held in the magnificent Four Seasons Restaurant at the Inn on the Park from Monday April 11th until Saturday April 16th. For a week to be long remembered, you'll find Gascony at the end of Park Lane. For reservations, call 01 499 0888.

Inn on the Park The Four Seasons Restaurant Hamilton Place, Park Lane, London W1.



Beazer now close to Second City takeover

By Baron Phillips Property Correspondent
C H Beazer, the Bath-based housebuilding, construction and property group, looks set to take over the Midlands company, Second City Properties...

Maxwell turns BPCC round to £12m profit

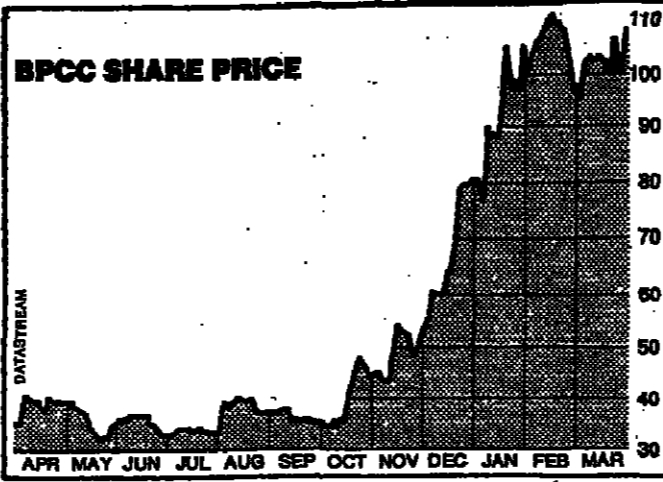
British Printing & Communications Corporation
Year to 31.12.82
Pretax profit £12.4m (1.2m loss)
Stated earnings 11.4p (1.5p)
Turnover £192.5m (£198.1m)
Final dividend nil (same)
Share price 98p down 10p

Mr Maxwell declined to provide a breakdown of where the profits were made, beyond indicating that the Swedish operation made a strong contribution. A good contribution, too, came from the British printing plants, which benefited from improved productivity.

A more detailed breakdown of the group's performance will be made available when the 1982 annual report is published in May.

Mr Maxwell says that his survival plan for BPCC will be completed by the end of this year when he has completed the rationalization of Sun Printers and Odhams in Watford, and sorted out problems at the Park Royal printing plant in London.

He is looking for a further increase in profits during the year and is confident that payment of dividends on both ordinary and preference shares will be resumed during 1983.



Johnson Group

Johnson Group Cleaners
Year to 25.12.82
Pretax profit £5.8m (£4.1m)
Stated earnings 35.81p (17.97p)
Turnover £50.7m (£44m)
Net second interim dividend 8p (5.55p)
Share price 348+5p Yield 4.4%
Dividend payable 28.4.83

board's hand in two ways: first, if Trade Secretary approves two would-be bidders, they provide a stiff backbone for the defence. Second, if he stops the bid, the results will underpin the share price to stop it collapsing along with takeover hopes.

Opinion in the City is divided over what the decision from Lord Cockfield will be. But Johnson's 40 per cent increase in the dividend over last year indicates the board is

not convinced it will be in its favour.

What worries the company's followers is that if Initial or Sunlight Service group are stopped from bidding, Johnson will end up stuck on a profit plateau just as it did after it fought off the Sketchley bid in 1977.

Last year consumer business picked up early in April and May and profits increased from £3.3m to £4.6m while the industrial side remained flat. Now the industrial side is now showing some strength or at least it is no longer such a tough race to put on business faster than it was being lost by factory closures.

APV Holdings

A.P.V. Holdings
Year to 31.12.82
Pretax profit £17.6m (£18.4m)
Stated earnings 34.85p (37.27p)
Turnover £238m (£223.8m)
Net final dividend 7.7p mkg 10.5p (9.6)
Share price 356p up 13p Yield 4.2%

APV has increased its profits only slightly, but the substan-

Ambrosiano inquiry for S America

From John Eagle Rome

Members of the Italo-Vatican Mixed Commission, set up in December to ascertain the Vatican bank's involvement with the Banco Ambrosiano empire of the late Signor Roberto Calvi, are reported on their way across the Atlantic to investigate former Ambrosiano subsidiaries in the western hemisphere.

They are expected to visit the Banco Andino in Lima, Peru, the Ambrosiano Grupo Comercial in Managua, Nicaragua, and the Banco Ambrosiano Overseas of Nassau, Bahamas. Monsignor Paul Marcinkus, the American archbishop who heads the Vatican bank, the Istituto per le Opere di Religione (IOR), used to sit on the board of the Nassau subsidiary.

The Italian government maintains the IOR owed the Ambrosiano group \$1,200m (£797m) when the latter collapsed last summer. Much of this resulted from complicated operations by Signor Calvi involving Ambrosiano group banks and phantom companies owned by the IOR. The Vatican denies liability.

COMMODITIES

Table with multiple columns listing commodity prices for metals (Copper, Zinc, Lead, Tin, Nickel, Silver, Gold), oil, sugar, wool, and various grains. Includes sub-sections for 'LONDON METAL EXCHANGE' and 'LONDON INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL FUTURES'.

Eight-point package to aid Japan's economy

Tokyo (Reuters) - The Japanese Government, acting with unusual speed, yesterday adopted a package of eight measures intended to boost the economy and to achieve the target of 3.4 per cent real economic growth in the financial year which began on Friday.

A press statement issued after the meeting of the Economic Affairs Ministerial Council said the measures were taken in the wake of rising unemployment, and low and static production levels, though stable prices had contributed to a modest expansion of the economy.

The measures do not require any additional expenditure by the Government, already troubled by a huge fiscal deficit. Despite this share prices fell slightly and the yen lost ground against the dollar. Dealers said the measures were known in advance and had already been taken into account.

Among other things, the package calls for effective management of monetary policies, a veiled expression of the government and ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) leader's wish for a cut in the official discount rate.

The LDP is particularly eager to see the interest rate reduced before the April 10 and 24 nationwide local elections. But Mr Haruo Mitsuoka, the Governor of the bank of Japan, has stood out since a hasty reduction of the discount rate, presently at 4.5 per cent, because it could further weaken the yen against the dollar.

Another major part of the package was 10 per cent of fiscal 1983 public works spending in the form of the year. The Government did not say whether it could produce a supplementary budget to provide extra money for the second-half of the year.

Other measures included proposals to streamline and improve existing systems and programmes and covered house building, private investment, small businesses, employment, recon-ut industries, and international trading relations.

Habit acquires Abrasives

Habit has acquired Precision Abrasives of Lichfield, Staffs, from Warne, Wright and Rowland, part of the Benjamin Priest Group.

Precision Abrasives makes industrial diamond products similar to those manufactured by Habit's subsidiaries. Total consideration is £60,000 satisfied the issue of 140,000 new ordinary Habit shares.

These shares have been placed subsequently with a number of investors, on behalf of the vendors. Precision abrasives accounts show net sets of £45,524. A £59,951 is due to the parent company, is assigned to Habit for nominal consideration.

Suppliers await verdict on cable TV contracts

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent
Britain's communications industry's hardware suppliers are likely to learn this month if their confidence in the prospects for a national cable television network will be rewarded.

The Home Office and the Department of Industry have argued for many weeks over who should award franchises and how they should be policed. Even in this atmosphere of uncertainty Britain's big electronic companies have been making tentative plans. Racal, Plessey, GEC and STC have all been investigating the potential of cable.

Racal and Oak Industries the US supplier of television equipment have formed a joint venture called Racal-Oak Communications which will import equipment initially from America, but it is intended to manufacture in Britain eventually. Cable & Wireless has gone into partnership with the banking and investment group, Charterhouse, and Commo TV of Texas a prominent American cable television construction company is ready to respond quickly to the decisions expected from the Government.

British Telecom has set up a special division to explore the potential of cable television. Of the half dozen companies which have approached the Department of Industry with plans for cable networks all wish to be in partnership with British Telecom.

However, those government decisions have been slow in coming and the momentum from a surge of interest in cable television last year has largely been lost as the Government has attempted to come to terms with a subject whose complexities it had not quite appreciated.

United Newspapers plc

Profit for 1982 up 49.5%
Growing confidence for 1983



The Chairman, David Stevens, reports
In a year in which the economy sustained long and severe recession, we are pleased that both the newspaper and commercial printing divisions of United Newspapers maintained trading volume. In all it has been an active year, both within the company and with acquisitions, and one in which we have seen profits rise significantly.

At £5,441,000, pre-tax profits increased 49.5% over last year, a figure influenced by the results of companies acquired during the year - in particular The Colonial Securities Trust plc, and PR Newswire Association Inc.

At the trading level, profits rose £1,292,000 - an increase of some 43% - with both periodical and printing divisions improving margins and profitability. Investment income was also stronger, and more than doubled over the previous twelve months to £1,325,000, largely because of the contribution of interest on funds realised by the sale of the Colonial Securities investment portfolio. Cash resources at the end of the year amounted to £7,784,000 compared with £4,825,000 for the last year.

Accordingly, we are able to recommend a final dividend of 7.5p per share - bringing the total dividend for the year on ordinary shares to 12p - which is equal to that of last year but on increased share capital.

Earnings per ordinary share are 21.7p allowing the dividend to be covered 1.7 times by earnings from ordinary activities.

Capital Investment
We spent more in 1982, with replacement presses bought for our commercial printing companies in Blackpool and Blackburn, and the purchase of accounting computers. This took total expenditure to £3,810,000 compared with £2,254,000 in 1981. £2.6 million of the

Summary of Results
Year ended 31st December
1982 1981
Turnover 97,547 86,517
Profit before taxation 5,441 3,638
Profit after taxation 4,610 2,245
Extraordinary items (2,441) (171)
Profit attributable to the members 2,169 2,188
Dividends 2,713 1,832
Final dividend 7.5p 7.5p
Ordinary dividend cover 1.72 1.24
Earnings per share 21.7p 14.8p

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
The Annual General Meeting will be held at 23-27, Ender St., London EC4 on Tuesday, 14 June, 1983 at 12.30pm.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

Unigroup
Half-year to 31.12.82
Pretax profit £17,000 (£29,000)
Stated earnings 0.46p (loss 1.2p)
Turnover £2.38m (£2.08m)
Net interim dividend. None (same)

A C Cars
Half-year to 30.9.82
Pretax loss £341,000 (£233,000)
Stated loss per share 16.4p (0.77p)
Turnover £1.44m (£1.98m)
Net final dividend. None (same)

Ingal Industries
Half-year to 31.12.82
Pretax profit £235,000 (£161,000)
Stated earnings 1.73p (1.19p)
Turnover £2.18m (£2.13m)
Net interim dividend. 0.58p (0.98p)

Sharna Ware
Year to 31.12.82
Pretax profit £387,000 (£543,000)
Stated earnings 8.66p (9.58p)
Turnover £20.69m (£17.35m)
Net final dividend. 1.33p making 2.2p (1.785p)

Business Class to Athens is a big seat.

Every day from London 26 big, wide, private Business Class seats in Olympic Airways A300 Airbus. Plus superb dining and dining, priority check-in desk and boarding and extra baggage allowance. Remember Olympic Airways Business Class. You'll never forget it.

THE NEW THURMORTON TRUST PLC.

Capital Loan Stock Issued 26 April 1983
The Net Asset Value per £1 of Capital Loan Stock is 392.11p calculated on Formula 1. Securities valued at middle market prices.

SWEDISH MATCH

Annual General Meeting
The Annual General Meeting of Swedish Match AB will be held on Friday 22. 1983, at 1.30 p.m. at the Central Office of Stockholm (Stockholm, Sweden) (Conference Hall, ground floor) Sörsögatan 2, Stockholm, Sweden.

United Newspapers plc



APPOINTMENTS

New chief for Lucas finance

Mr R. Brown has become finance director and treasurer of Lucas Industries in succession to Mr J. W. Shield who is retiring.

Mr David Blackett and Mr Peter Sullivan have joined the board of N. M. Rothschild & Sons.

Mr Brandon Gough has been appointed as senior partner of Coopers & Lybrand and chairman of the firm's executive committee.

The following have been admitted as partners of Coopers & Lybrand: Ms Mollie Bickerton, Mr Philip Collins, Mr Peter J. Cooke, Mr Roger Emerson, Mr Richard North, Mr Richard H. Phillips, Mr Glyndwr D. Thomas, Mr Clive W. Talloch (all in London); Ms Jane Gilbert (Birmingham); Mr Roger Angus (Bournemouth); Mr Christopher J. Phoenix (Edinburgh); Mr Gordon Jack (Glasgow); Mr Jonathan P. Zigmund (Leeds); Mr Richard A. Wade (Leicester); Mr Russell B. C. Beeson (Maidstone); and Mr Philip Wilkinson (Northampton). Messrs Austin Bendall, John A. Hammond, David Liggins, Richard J. Platford, and Francis J. Floeden have been made directors of Coopers & Lybrand Associates in London and Mr Victor L. Luck becomes a director in Leeds.

Mr C. David Watlen, the planning director of Burnett & Hallamshire Holdings, has been appointed chairman of the Property Division, Anglo Overseas Construction Corporation and chairman of the Oil Division, UK Petroleum Products Holdings.

In addition Burnet & Hallamshire's mining division has made the following board appointments within the division's parent company, The Mining Investment Corporation. Mr James I.M. Pitchford is appointed joint managing director (Mining Operations), Mr John R.Hall is appointed director responsible for Mining Europe, Mr Nicholas J. H. Hall is appointed director, Mining International and Mr Kenneth J. Duff is appointed director responsible for the Group's Reclaimed Fu Operations.

Michael Prest on Opec's debate on developing member countries' economies

The Gulf looks to investment

Last year the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries incurred its first current account deficit in a decade, and the probability is that Opec's 13 members will collectively import more than they export again this year.

The debate revolves around how the oil and financial resources of Gulf states with large reserves of both kinds and small populations can best be deployed to develop their economies.

But equally important when Opec members are withdrawing cash balances from the banking system is the second debate over the merits of return or yield on external assets and liquidity.

The tables show the recent history of oil producers' revenues. Gross revenues accruing to the Gulf exporters fell by almost \$50,000m in 1982 to \$126,800m, and will decline sharply again this year on any reasonable assumption about prices and production.

For the immediate future, at least, the Gulf countries are the ones relevant to the discussion because they account for all the surplus - indeed, in a sense more than all the surplus since other Opec members run deficits - and they have choices about how to deploy resources.

After running up an investable surplus of \$68,000m in 1981, which came after a record

Deployment of oil producers' surpluses (\$000m) table with columns for 1981, 1982(a), Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4(b) and rows for Britain, United States, and other countries.

Source: Bank of England Quarterly Bulletin (a) Opec plus Bahrain, Brunei, Oman, and Trinidad and Tobago; (b) Provisional; (c) Saudi Arabia has since agreed to contribute to the General Arrangements to Borrow.

surplus of more than \$100,000m in 1979, oil producers collectively suffered a deficit estimated at \$15,000m last year.

One crucial aspect of that deterioration is how assets have become more and more concentrated in the hands of the "low absorbers".

But while revenues have fallen and the concentration of assets has grown, import bills have continued to rise. Mr Roger Azar, who runs a private investment company in Paris for Arabs, has estimated that total Opec revenues this year will be \$125,000m, a drop of 1.6 per cent from 1982.

Most of this substantial potential deficit will be incurred by Opec members outside the Gulf. Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar should run small surpluses.

Nevertheless, Saudi Arabia at least has the luxury of choice over how to fund its deficit.

Withdrawal of reserves is one example. Opec as a whole started to draw on bank balances early last year. There are wide discrepancies in the figures because identifying the origin and destination of funds internationally is hard.

ment - chiefly equities - which fell noticeably in the final quarter.

In effect therefore, net new Opec investment has halted as liquid assets have been sold or withdrawn.

Kuwait, for example, has external assets of some \$40,000m and Saudi Arabia holds about four times as much.

At the same time, however, other kinds of investment have been made, albeit at a slower pace.

If this is the solution to the Opec investment debate it implies that the day on which the crucial marginal oil suppliers can afford to pump less crude has drawn closer.

Economic notebook Dubious morality of owning your home

Like motherhood and royalty, we have been brought up to believe in the virtues of home ownership.

One of the first principals of finance (and commonsense, too) is not to hold all your eggs in one basket.

Mortgage relief raises the demand for houses and thus artificially increases their price.

Moreover, home ownership incentives tend to reduce labour mobility because they reduce the vigour of the private rental market.

than to rent them, the private rental market will contract (and has contracted) on the demand side.

This brings me to my main suggestion: that subsidies of home ownership be abolished.

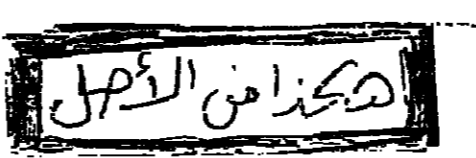
At the same time public sector housing should be denationalized so that a genuinely integrated and competitive market in accommodation can develop.

In the meanwhile, although mortgage relief was not abolished it was allowed to wither away with inflation and looked as though it was going to die a silent death.

In the Budget the ceiling on mortgage relief was raised by 20 per cent. Maybe Mrs Thatcher has not really developed a sensible housing policy after all.

Michael Beenstock The author is Professor of Finance Investment at the City University Business School

Large financial table with multiple columns for various financial instruments, including Authorized Units & Insurance Funds, and Insurance Bonds and Funds. It lists numerous entities and their associated financial data.



Swire Pacific Limited

Consolidated results for the year ended 31st December 1982 and 1982 final dividends

Results. Audited consolidated results for the year ended 31st December 1982 were:

Table with 4 columns: Year ended 31st December, 1982, 1981, and two columns for HK\$m. Rows include Turnover, Operating profit, Net operating profit, Profit before taxation, etc.

The profit of HK\$800.7 million attributable to shareholders of Swire Pacific Limited for 1982 included a profit from Swire Properties Limited of HK\$229.1 million which was lower than that of the previous year...

Final dividends. The directors of Swire Pacific Limited will recommend to shareholders at the Annual General Meeting on 27th May 1983 the payment of final dividends of 24.0c (1981: 22.0c) per 'A' share and 10.4c (1981: 10.4c) per 'B' share...

Investment properties and net assets per share. The annual valuation at open market value of the investment properties of the Swire Properties group was carried out at 31st December 1982 by Jones Lang Wootton...

Prospects. There are now positive indications of some improvement in demand in the property market in Hong Kong and, if this is confirmed, it should result in better trading results in the property division...

The Annual Report for 1982 will be sent to shareholders on 5th May 1983. Hong Kong, 30th March 1983.



COPE ALLMAN INTERNATIONAL

TO ALL COPE ALLMAN SHAREHOLDERS

DOWABLE'S LETTER TO YOU OF 31st MARCH, 1983 IS MISLEADING AND SHOULD BE IGNORED

The letter from Dowable attempts to focus your attention on the last two financial years (a period of major reorganisation) and, by being very selective, it has produced a misleading document which is obviously intended to divert attention from more relevant factors.

For example, you should note that:-

- the annual salary increases for the present executive directors in July 1981 and July 1982 in fact averaged 8.8 per cent. and 6.5 per cent. respectively
• the increase in head office expenses actually related to consultancy services and planned redundancy costs
• the present rate of profitability, as shown by the profit forecast for the second half to 2nd July, 1983, in fact produces an annual rate of return on assets of more than three times Dowable's figure

The relevant factors which Dowable conveniently ignores are that:-

- pre-tax profit for the second half to 2nd July, 1983 is expected to exceed £2.6 million, an increase of more than 68 per cent. over the comparable period in 1982
• following the reduction in the size of the Group, steps are being taken which will achieve savings of around £1.5 million per annum in our central and other costs
• the final dividend will reflect the underlying profitability of the Group

• the recently strengthened management team is confident that the recovery will be sustained and will gather momentum

Dowable clearly cannot dispute these points and therefore chooses to ignore them. Not surprisingly, Dowable concentrates on history whereas shareholders are more concerned with the present and the future. By adopting such tactics, Dowable obviously hopes to gain for itself the emerging benefits which are now showing through strongly. THESE BENEFITS BELONG TO YOU.

Your Board and its financial advisers, Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited, once again urge you to retain your shares and to participate in the strong recovery.

DOWABLE'S OFFER OF 60p PER SHARE IS WHOLLY INADEQUATE. HOLD ON TO YOUR SHARES TAKE NO ACTION. REJECT THIS OPPORTUNISTIC BID

This notice should be read in conjunction with the Rejection Document sent to Cope Allman International P.L.C. shareholders on 29th March, 1983. Each of the Directors of Cope Allman International P.L.C. has taken all reasonable care neither by taking part himself in supervising the preparation hereof, or by delegating the preparation to a duly authorised committee of the Board, and by disclosing to such committee any relevant facts known to him and any relevant opinions held by him to ensure that the facts stated and opinions expressed herein are fair and accurate...

Brotherhood agrees bid from Thermo

An agreed bid has been launched for Peter Brotherhood by Thermo Electron Corporation, one of Brotherhood's biggest shareholders, as a last-ditch effort to prop up the ailing compressor manufacturer.

Thermo's offer follows the failure of Brotherhood to get its bankers to put up further loans after its poor trading prospects had made it impossible to ask shareholders for more cash. The US engineering company is offering 13.5p in cash which values the company at only £610,000 or 10p in cash and one redeemable preference share in a new subsidiary of Thermo. The offer compares with stated net assets of 102p. Only last year Brotherhood's shares were trading at over 140p.

Increase in funds raised on capital market

Paris (AP Dow Jones) - Funds raised on the international capital market rose \$2,300m last month to \$15,900m, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The volume of bank lending to OECD countries soared to \$1,500m last month from \$1,700m in February and \$294m in January. Borrowing among OECD members dropped to \$1,400m from \$2,500m in February.

The OECD noted that both figures include major bank lendings to Brazil and Mexico. In February Brazil borrowed \$4,400m. Mexico borrowed \$5,000m in March.

Base Lending Rates

Table listing various banks and their base lending rates, such as ABN Bank, Barclays, BCCI, etc.

Germain relax option trading regulations

Frankfurt (Reuters) New rules designed to revitalize share option trading on West German stock exchanges came into effect yesterday. They coincided with the biggest share rally here since the War.

Despite the boom, however, officials were taking a cautious view of the likely impact of the option changes. Herr Herbert Schlicht, Frankfurt, Borse executive managing director, said: "The timing is a fortunate coincidence but we are not making any forecasts just yet."

Options - contracts to buy or sell shares at a fixed price at an agreed future date - have been traded on German bourses since 1970, but volume has been small.

The changes are designed to remove obstacles which have hindered development of a healthy secondary market, by making easier comparison between contracts on different shares.

The new rules introduce a graduated price structure for option contracts linked to the market price of the corresponding share. Up to now the price was fixed arbitrarily by the issuer.

They also mean there will be just four contract expiry dates against a previous 36.

Herr Schlicht said: "With these changes we hope to make options more negotiable. This is a fundamental change and, after this, we should only need to fine-tune the system."

Frankfurt has gradually increased its dominance of option trading in Germany and took 98 per cent of the country's option market in 1982 against 70 per cent in 1970.

WALL STREET

Beecham hopes to double US sales

(NYT News Service) - Beecham, the chemical and consumer product company, is stepping up its expansion strategy that has served it well for more than a decade.

J. B. Williams, which Beecham bought from Nabisco Brands last September for \$100m, brought the company such strong performers as Ceritol, a vitamin preparation; Sominer, the sleep aid; and Aqua Velva, after shave.

With Ohio-based DAP, Schering-Plough's do-it-yourself subsidiary that Beecham purchased early this month for \$70m, the British group has acquired a third of the American market in sealants, caulks and fillers.

Together, the two purchases are expected to double Beecham's sales in the United States to an annual \$500m.

DAP, formerly Dicks Armstrong-Pontius, extends the company's interests in adhesives. Beecham sold its Uru product line worldwide.

In acquisitions we tend not to move too far out of fields we are in, Sir Graham Wilkins, the chairman, said. DAP is step two in building an international business based on this type of product - a specialty product with room for improvement based on research.

Indeed, research is the key - "You cannot claim to be an international company unless you are important in the United States," Sir Graham said. "We have had five important acquisitions there since 1971 and the reason is that in whatever sphere we are in, the United States represents at minimum 20 per cent of our market, and this can go up to 40 in some areas."

Table of financial data for various companies, including columns for company name, share price, and other metrics.

Prices now available on Prestel, page 48146

Granville & Co Limited

Table titled 'The Over-the-Counter Market' listing various financial instruments, their prices, and other data.

"Profits up in difficult market conditions"



Sir Ronald McIntosh KCB Chairman, APV HOLDINGS PLC

Table showing financial performance for 1982 and 1981, including Sales (£339m vs £293m), Profit before tax (£17.6m vs £16.4m), etc.

- Extracts from the Chairman's Statement:
★ Dividend increased for sixteenth successive year.
★ Net borrowings reduced by £6m.
★ Increased investment in new technology despite recession.
★ Orders in 1982 up 17%: improvement continues in 1983.

APV - market leaders in advanced process plant for the food, beverage and chemical industries. Copies of the Report and Accounts will be available after 29th April 1983 from the Secretary. APV HOLDINGS PLC P.O. Box 4, Crawley, West Sussex RH10 2QB.





RACING: GRAND NATIONAL RUNNERS/ RAMIFICATIONS OF SHERGAR'S KIDNAPPING

Grittar's rider escapes as mount is killed

By Michael Seely

Paul Barton, John Franco's replacement jockey on Grittar at the Grand National, escaped unhurt when Hawkbarron was killed in a fall at the sixth flight of hurdles in the Montagu Handicap at Wetherby yesterday.

Paul Barton: unlikely to ride Grittar beforehand

Both Frank Gilman, Grittar's owner, breeder and trainer and Dick Saunders, last year's winning rider are convinced that Barton is the man to do their horse justice. "Paul has been in tremendous form this season," Saunders said. "He's a very good horseman as well as being a top-class jockey."

National fever is now gripping everyone and the realization that the big day is now only four days away came with the publication of the first set of odds yesterday. There were no surprise withdrawals among the 46 acceptors, although Rammya is unlikely to run.

Grittar is still a firm favourite at 5-1 with all leading firms of bookmakers. Spartan Missile remains second choice in the market at 8-1. It is difficult to beat 1-2 about Ashley Woods, Caribbea, Keongaddy and Bonum Omnia, although longer prices are available against such strongly fancied runners as Mid Day Gun, Peaty Sandy, Fortina's Express and Greatpoint.

The wide range of betting reflects the open nature of the race. Mr Saunders is a man of sound judgement and is interesting to hear his views. "It's the most competitive National for years. There are at least 10 with sound chances. You've got to favour Grittar and Spartan Missile as the most experienced horses. As for Spartan Missile, his best form might be the best at the weights, but as that is uncertain I will not desert Grittar. Of the others I like Midday Gun. He's got a good weight and he's a clever jumper."

Saunders has his nail on the head. Spartan Missile had to work hard to beat Burt Oak at Newbury, a horse to whom he would have conceded a great deal of weight in the handicap. Nicky Henderson is a trainer in form and he is delighted with the horse who finished runner-up to Alan King on Tuesday. It is indeed difficult to choose between the pair.

An enthralling afternoon awaits the enormous crowd that is expected to arrive on Saturday. Badsworth Boy, Dickinson's spruce tacular winner of the Queen Mother

Ma Biche Shergar syndicate start to cast their lines in other waters

By Michael Seely

Lord Derby has acted on the assumption that Shergar is dead and he sent two mares to the stallions. "I had to take a view," he said yesterday. "No one seems to know anything definite and the season is getting on. Base Camp has gone to El-Mans-Mou and Onira is visiting Poole. I already have a share in Poole and it is convenient that both these stallions are standing in Ireland."

Coyote, another of Lord Derby's brood mares has already been delivered of a filly foal sired by Shergar, the winner of the 1981 Derby. Another member of the syndicate did not wish to be named but said that he had also made alternative arrangements for his mare this season.

Chlidian Drion is the manager of the Ballymany Stud from which Shergar was removed by force on February 7. He is also a member of the Shergar syndicate. Speaking from Ireland he said yesterday: "I know of nine foals who have already been born this season; four of them are colts and five are fillies. Forty four mares were mated so being in foal to Shergar. One slipped her foal and another absorbed one, so another 33 must be due to foal."

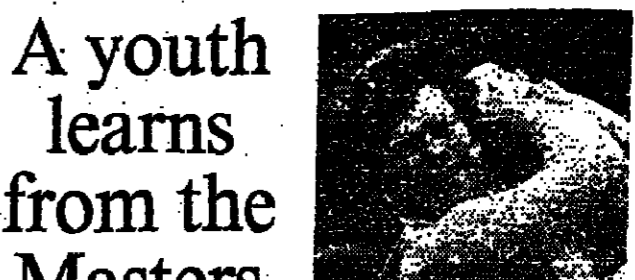
Mr Drion was unwilling to discuss any other aspect of the syndicate. "What other syndicate members are doing with their mares is a strictly private matter. And indeed the whole question of Shergar's disappearance is kept private by the syndicate."

Shergar raced in the colours of the Aga Khan for whom he won five of his races in 1981, including the English and Irish Derbies and a share in the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes at Ascot. He was syndicated for £10m at the end of that season. The Aga Khan who also owns the Ballymany Stud retained six shares for his own use.

The syndicate obviously faces grave financial loss if Shergar is not found. The matter of any compensation by insurance is complicated as each individual member has made his own arrangements. Lord Derby said: "This is rather a delicate area as we do not know what has happened to the stallion. Personally I would not wish to cover up the death, but would like to apply to kidnapping." Another breeder with a share in the stallion said that he had no insurance cover.

It is difficult to estimate what the possible loss of Shergar might mean to the breeding industry. He was an outstanding racehorse and the margin of his 10-length victory over Ghint of Gold at Epsom was the widest recorded in the history of the race. Timeform has said in its comment in their annual "Racehorses of 1981": "As a performer we consider him one of the best horses in the world. Northern Dancer's son, Be My Guest. It is against this background that Shergar's potential

A youth learns from the Masters



Watson: 1981 winner likely to partner Thompson

From John Hennessy Golf Correspondent, Augusta The first serious rites of the golfing spring in the northern hemisphere, at least, are about to be enacted this week with the opening of the Masters tournament. The weather in the United States has been so unpropitious, with rain under Royal patronage in Southern California and snow in Las Vegas, that one was prepared for all conditions in this quiet corner of Georgia.

In the event, Augusta has emerged seductively in its Easter bonnet, and to walk the course, or rather the grounds (since the layout is more the form of a park than a traditional golf course) is a delight enough.

It is this idyllic scene that Martin Thompson, aged just 19, has just entered. He has shoulders with the Nicklaus and the Watsons, the 1981 winner and holder of the United States Open or Ballsteros, the 1982 Master.

Thompson does not contribute to a reluctant break with tradition that makes this year's Masters somewhat of a watershed. For the first time the players are allowed to bring their own caddies and if a white overall and white tennis shoes are still obligatory, a black skirt is not. Flash, it is a method that seems to work for him.

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POINT TO POINT Housemistress will take some beating

By Ian Reid

Housemistress, the bold-jumping winner of the Vale of Aylesbury on Easter Saturday, will be leading contender for the final at Chesham on May 30. Confidently ridden as usual by Rosemary Harper, the mare had six lengths to spare over Mervilla, with the other qualifier, Clever One, the same distance away third.

Old Tom Bombadil looked to have the best of his own when he passed Robin's Tango after the fence, but Ian McKie conjured a last desperate effort out of Robin's Tango, who caught him on the line. In a poor field of five for the Woodside Pichley Webster's Yorkshire Biter open at Dingley, Gill O'Whiskey, the 4-1 on favourite, was beaten fair and square by Clifton, ridden by John Clifton, with the other qualifier, the opening adjacent, Peter Grenall was so far ahead on Boombaroo that his mount jumped the last fence from a trot. Much the best race was at Chesham, where the only qualifier, Saunders on the sometimes way-

ward Duc De Beloe beat Emma Newdon on Lucky Rew by half a length. Michael Portman's Lochay drew clear up the final hill in the Hurley Hambleton's four-mile open at Tweekedown to beat two other proven players in The Spout Centre of Northern Dancer's sons, Belinda Cooper took another ladies' open, on the grey Casket, who won in good style from two course winners, Parsy and Mister Jack. In the Old Bedford Handicap, where the Heythrop held their point-to-point for 30 years, and riders (and horses) may well prefer the hunt's new course on Richard Sumner's land at Duntroon Farm, just outside Heythrop village, three miles north-east of Chipping Norton.

Major Bernard Lorraine-Smith, joint clerk of the course, points out that the hard work that has gone into laying of a new grass track with a one and a half mile circuit, extensive drainage and landscaping, all completed by July 10 last year. As a result, the going, on sandy soil, will never be heavy.

Table with racing results for Ascot NH, including race numbers, names, and odds.

Table with racing results for Pontefract, including race numbers, names, and odds.

Table with racing results for Chepstow NH, including race numbers, names, and odds.

British face bump trip to the Isle of Wight

By John Wilcockson

France and The Netherlands have named strong teams for the Sealink International race which starts on April 18 at Ventnor. Isle of Wight. Leading the French squad is Felix Ullman from Nantes, who has had 100 wins in his career. He is a more experienced than British rider, than Patrice Bannant from Orleans, who is a time trial specialist with 50 wins to his credit.

Gerrard Schipper and Bert Welkema again lead the Dutch team. In 1982 Welkema was the winner of the first stage of the Sealink race, one of 16 victories he amassed last season. The final course to announce their team is Czechoslovakia. The four best young formation under Igor Kvitok. The best known of the others are Frantisek Kloucek, who was eighth in the recent world cyclo-cross championships at Brno, and Martin Penc, a strong team pursuit rider. He could do well in the time trial stages that open and close the Sealink event.

Two former race winners are included in the 60-man line up Bob Downs, who again leads the Great Britain amateur team and Billy Kerr, from Ulster, who is included in the best of the British line up. Downs, who has yet to find the fitness he enjoyed in 1980, did not compete in last weekend's Girvan

three day-race because of a family illness. A better pointer to form will be next Sunday's Period Grand Prix at Beaconsfield, where the chic British amateur prospects face their Polish counterparts. Zdenek Jaskul and Zbigniew Szczepanski, who was one of the main challengers to the Russians in the 1982 Milk Race in Krakow, a 1982 national time trial champion, was fourth in last year's tour of Poland, and has the all-round ability to win a race such as the Sealink.

Table with snow reports, including columns for location, depth, conditions, and weather.

Warwick results

Table with racing results for Warwick, including race numbers, names, and odds.

Wetherby NH

Table with racing results for Wetherby NH, including race numbers, names, and odds.

Ascot NH

Table with racing results for Ascot NH, including race numbers, names, and odds.

Warwick results

Table with racing results for Warwick, including race numbers, names, and odds.